



# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

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(1542) contrary to nature, reason, or common sense: ABSURD — preposterously adv — preposterousness n
pre-po-ten-cy (prē-pō-'nt(ē)-sē) n (1646) 1: the quality or state of being prepotent; PREDOMINANCE 2: unusual ability of an individual or strain to transmit its characters to offspring because of homozygosity for numerous dominant genes
pre-po-tent (prē-pō-'tnt) adj [ME, fr. L praepotent-, praepotens, fr. prae- + potens powerful — more at POTENT] (15c) 1 a: having exceptional power, authority, or influence b: exceeding others in power 2: exhibiting genetic prepotency — pre-po-tent-ly adv
preppy or preppie (prē-pē'v) n, pl preppies [prep] (1967) 1: a student at or a graduate of a preparatory school 2: a person deemed to dress or behave like a preppy
preppy or preppie adj (1967) 1: relating to, characteristic of, or being a preppy 2: relating to or being a style of dress characterized esp. by classic clothing and neat appearance — pre-pi-ly (prē-pā-lē) adv — pre-pi-ness (prē-pē-nō's) n
pre-pran-di-al (prē-'prān-dē-ā'l) adj (1822) : of, relating to, or suitable for the time just before dinner (a ~ drink)
pre-preg (prē-'preg, 'prē-ā) n [pre- + impregnated] (1954) : a reinforcing or molding material (as paper or glass cloth) already impregnated with a synthetic resin
pre-print (prē-'prīnt, 'prē-'prīnt) n (1889) 1: an issue of a technical paper often in preliminary form before its publication in a journal 2: something (as an advertisement) printed before the rest of the publication in which it is to appear
pre-print (prē-'prīnt) v (1926) : to print in advance for later use
pre-pro-cess (prē-'prō-'ses, 'prō-'sēs) v (1942) : to do preliminary processing of (as data) — pre-pro-ces-sor (prē-'sōr, 'sōr) n
pre-profes-sional (prē-'prō-'fesh-nəl, 'fē-shā-nəl) adj (1926) : of or relating to the period preceding specific study for or practice of a profession
prep school n (1895) : PREPARATORY SCHOOL
pre-pu-ber-al (prē-'pyū-bə-'rāl) adj (ca. 1935) : PREPUBERTAL
pre-pu-ber-ty (prē-'pyū-bə-'rē-tē) n (1859) : of or relating to prepuberty
pre-pu-ber-ty (prē-'pyū-bə-'rē-tē) n (1922) : the period immediately preceding puberty
pre-pu-ber-ty (prē-'pyū-bə-'rē-tē) n (1916) : PREPUBERTAL
pre-pu-ber-ty (prē-'pyū-bə-'rē-tē) n (1904) : PREPUBERTAL — pre-pu-ber-ty (prē-'pyū-bə-'rē-tē) n [ME, fr. MF, fr. L praepubertium] (15c) : FORESKIN; also : a similar fold investing the clitoris — pre-pu-ber-ty (prē-'pyū-bə-'rē-tē) n
pre-quel (prē-'kwəl) n [pre- + -quel (as in sequel)] (1972) : a literary or dramatic work whose story proceeds that of an earlier work
Pre-Ra-pha-el-ite (prē-'rā-fē-'līt, 'rā-, 'rā-ā) n (1850) 1 a : a member of a brotherhood of artists formed in England in 1848 to restore the artistic principles and practices regarded as characteristic of Italian art before Raphael b : an artist or writer influenced by this brotherhood 2 : a modern artist dedicated to restoring early Renaissance ideals or methods — Pre-Raphaelite adj — Pre-Raphaelism (prē-'rā-fā-'el-iz-əm) n
pre-regis-tration (prē-'re-jī-'strā-shən) n (1967) : a special registration (as for returning students) prior to an official registration period
pre-regis-ter (prē-'re-jī-'stər) v
pre-requi-site (prē-'re-kwī-'zīt) n (1633) : something that is necessary to an end or to the carrying out of a function — pre-requisite adj
pre-rog-a-tive (prē-'rō-gā-'tīv) n [ME, fr. MF & L, MF, fr. L praerogativa, Roman century voting first in the comitia, privilege, fr. fem. of praerogatus voting first, fr. praerogatus, pp. of praerogare to ask for an opinion before another, fr. prae- + rogare to ask — more at RIGHT] (15c) 1 a : an exclusive or special right, power, or privilege; as (1) : one belonging to an office or an official body (2) : one belonging to a person, group, or class of individuals (3) : one possessed by a nation as an attribute of sovereignty b : the discretionary power inhering in the British Crown 2 : a distinctive excellence — pre-rog-a-tive (prē-'rō-gā-'tīv) n
pre-sage (prē-'sāj, also prē-'sāj) n [ME, fr. L praesagium, fr. praesagus having a foreboding, fr. prae- + sagus prophetic — more at SEEK] (14c) 1 : something that foreshadows or portends a future event ; OMEN 2 : an intuition or feeling of what is going to happen in the future 3 archaic : PROGNOSTICATION 4 : warning or indication of the future — pre-sage-ful (prē-'sāj-'fəl) adj
pre-sage (prē-'sāj, also prē-'sāj) v pre-saged; pre-sag-ing v (1562) 1 : to give an omen or warning of; FORESHADOW 2 : FORETELL, PREDICT ~ vt : to make or utter a prediction — pre-sag-er n, obs
pre-san-cti-fied (prē-'sāŋ-'ktī-'fīd) adj (1758) : consecrated at a previous service — used of eucharistic elements
pres-by-ope (prēz-'bē-'ōp; 'pres-bē-, 'pē-ā) n [prob. fr. F, fr. Gk presbyos old man + ops eye — more at EYE] (ca. 1857) : one affected with presbyopia
pres-by-o-pia (prēz-'bē-'ō-pē-'ā, 'pres-ā) n [NL] (1793) : a visual condition which becomes apparent esp. in middle age and in which loss of elasticity of the lens of the eye causes defective accommodation and inability to focus sharply for near vision — pres-by-o-pic (prē-'bē-'ō-pik, 'ā-ā) adj or n
pres-by-ter (prēz-'bā-'tər, 'pres-ā) n [LL, elder, priest, fr. Gk presbyteros, compar. of presbyos old man, elder; akin to Gk pro before and Gk bainō to go — more at FOR, COME] (1597) 1 : a member of the governing body of an early Christian church 2 : a member of the order of priests in churches having episcopal hierarchies that include bishops, priests, and deacons 3 : ELDER 4b — pres-by-ter-ate (prēz-'bī-'tər-āt, 'pres-ā) n
pres-by-ter-i-al (prēz-'bā-'tir-ē-ā'l, 'pres-ā) adj (ca. 1600) : of or relating to presbyters or a presbytery — pres-by-ter-i-al-ly (prēz-'bē-'tēr-ē-ā-lē) adv
presbyterial n, often cap (1928) : an organization of Presbyterian women associated with a presbytery
Pres-by-ter-i-an (prēz-'bē-'tēr-ē-'ān, 'pres-ā) n (1640) : a member of a Presbyterian church
Presbyterian adj (1641) 1 often not cap : characterized by a graded system of representative ecclesiastical bodies (as presbyteries) exercising legislative and judicial powers 2 : of, relating to, or constituting a Protestant Christian church that is Presbyterian in government and traditionally Calvinistic in doctrine — Pres-by-ter-i-an-ism (prēz-'bē-'tēr-ē-'ā-ni-zəm) n
pres-by-tery (prēz-'bā-'tēr-ē, 'pres-, '-bā-trē) n, pl -ter-ies [ME & LL;

ME presbytery part of church reserved for clergy, fr. LL presbyterium group of presbyters, part of church reserved for clergy, fr. Gk presbyterion group of presbyters, fr. presbyteros elder, priest] (15c) 1 : the part of a church reserved for the officiating clergy 2 : a ruling body in Presbyterian churches consisting of the ministers and representative elders from congregations within a district 3 : the jurisdiction of a presbytery 4 : the house of a Roman Catholic parish priest
pre-school (prē-'skūl, 'prē-ā) adj (1914) : of, relating to, or constituting the period in a child's life from infancy to the age of five or six that ordinarily precedes attendance at elementary school
pre-school (prē-'skūl) n (ca. 1925) ; NURSERY SCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN
pre-school-er (prē-'skūl-er) n (1946) 1 : a child not yet old enough for school 2 : a child attending a preschool
pre-science (prē-'shē-'sēn(t)s, 'prē-, '-sē-'n(t)s) n [ME, fr. LL praescientia, fr. L praescient-, praesciens, prp. of praescire to know beforehand, fr. prae- + scire to know — more at SCIENCE] (14c) : foreknowledge of events; a : divine omniscience b : human anticipation of the course of events ; FORESIGHT — pre-scient (prē-'shē-'sēn(t)) adj — pre-scient-ly adv
pre-sci-ent-ly (prē-'shē-'sēn-'tē-ē-ē) adj (1858) : of, relating to, or having the characteristics of a period before the rise of modern science or a state prior to the application of the scientific method
pre-scind (prē-'sīnd) v [L praescindere to cut off in front, fr. prae- + scindere to cut — more at SHED] vi (1650) : to withdraw one's attention ~ vt : to detach for purposes of thought
pre-score (prē-'skōr, 'skōr) v (1937) : to record (as sound) in advance for use when the corresponding scenes are photographed in making movies
pre-scribe (prē-'skrib) v pre-scribed; pre-scrib-ing [ME, fr. L praescribere to write at the beginning, dictate, order, fr. prae- + scribere to write — more at SCRIBE] vi (15c) 1 : to lay down a rule ; DICTATE 2 [ME, fr. ML praescribere, fr. L, to write at the beginning] : to claim a title to something by right of prescription 3 : to write or give medical prescriptions 4 : to become by prescription invalid or unenforceable ~ vt 1 a : to lay down as a guide, direction, or rule of action ; ORDAIN b : to specify with authority 2 : to designate or order the use of as a remedy — pre-scrib-er n
pre-script (prē-'skript, 'prē-'skript) adj [ME, fr. L praescriptus, pp.] (ca. 1540) : prescribed as a rule — pre-script (prē-'skript) n
pre-scrip-tion (prē-'skrip-shən) n [partly fr. ME prescriptio establishment of a claim, fr. MF prescription, fr. LL praescriptio-, praescriptio, fr. L, act of writing at the beginning, order, limitation of subject matter, fr. praescribere; partly fr. L praescriptio-, praescriptio order] (14c) 1 a : the establishment of a claim of title to something under common law usu. by use and enjoyment for a period fixed by statute b : the right or title acquired under common law by such possession 2 : the process of making claim to something by long use and enjoyment 3 : the action of laying down authoritative rules or directions 4 a : a written direction for a therapeutic or corrective agent; specif : one for the preparation and use of a medicine b : a prescribed medicine c : something like a doctor's prescription (~s for economic recovery) 5 a : ancient or long continued custom b : a claim founded upon ancient custom or long continued use 6 : something prescribed as a rule
prescription drug n (1951) : a drug that can be obtained only by means of a physician's prescription
pre-scrip-tive (prē-'skrip-tīv) adj (1748) 1 : serving to prescribe (~rules of usage) 2 : acquired by, founded on, or determined by prescription or by long-standing custom — pre-scrip-tive-ly adv
pre-se-lect (prē-'sē-'lekt) v (ca. 1859) : to choose in advance usu. on the basis of a particular criterion — pre-se-lection (prē-'sē-'lek-shən) n
pre-sell (prē-'sel) v -sold; -selling (1947) 1 : to pre-condition (as a customer) for subsequent purchase or create advance demand for (as a product) esp. through marketing strategies 2 : to sell in advance (raised money to publish the book by preselling film rights)
pre-sence (prē-'zēn(t)s) n (14c) 1 : the fact or condition of being present 2 a : the part of space within one's immediate vicinity b : the neighborhood of one of superior esp. royal rank 3 archaic : COMPANY 2a 4 : one that is present; as a : the actual person or thing that is present b : something present of a visible or concrete nature 5 a : the bearing, carriage, or air of a person; esp : stately or distinguished bearing b : a quality of poise and effectiveness that enables a performer to achieve a close relationship with his audience 6 : something (as a spirit) felt or believed to be present
presence of mind (1665) : self-control so maintained in an emergency or in an embarrassing situation that one can say or do the right thing
pres-ent (prē-'znt) n [ME, fr. OF, fr. presenter] (13c) : something presented ; GIFT
pre-sent (prē-'znt) v [ME, fr. OF presenter, fr. L praesentare, fr. praesent-, praesens, adj.] vi (14c) 1 a (1) : to bring or introduce into the presence of someone esp. of superior rank or status (2) : to introduce socially b : to bring (as a play) before the public 2 : to make a gift to 3 : to give or bestow formally 4 a : to lay (as a charge) before a court as an object of inquiry b : to bring a formal public charge, indictment, or presentment against 5 : to nominate to a benefice 6 a : to offer to view ; SHOW b : to bring to one's attention (this ~s a problem) 7 : to act the part of ; PERFORM 8 : to aim, point, or direct (as a weapon) so as to face something or in a particular direction ~ vt 1 : to present a weapon 2 : to become manifest 3 : to come forward as a patient 4 : to make a presentation SYN see GIVE — pre-sent-er n
pre-sent (prē-'znt) adj [ME, fr. OF, fr. L praesent-, praesens, fr. prp. of praesese to be before one, fr. prae- + esse to be — more at IS] (14c) 1 : now existing or in progress 2 a : being in view or at hand b : existing in something mentioned or under consideration 3 : constituting the one actually involved, at hand, or being considered 4 : of, relating to, or constituting a verb tense that is expressive of pres-

\ə\ but \ˈ kɪtən, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ə\ chin \ə\ bet \ə\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \ŋ\ sing \ə\ go \ə\ law \ə\ boy \t\ thin \t\ the \u\ loot \ə\ foot \y\ yet \z\ vision \ā, k, ʰ, œ, ē, ē, ū, ē, ˘\ see Guide to Pronunciation