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(1542): contrary to nature, reason, or common sense: **ABSURD** — **prepos-ter-ous-ly** *adv* — **pre-pos-ter-ous-ness** *n*

pre-po-ten-cy \(\)(prē-'pō-tən(t)-sē) *n* (1646) 1: the quality or state of being potent: **PREDOMINANCE** 2: unusual ability of an individual or strain to transmit its characters to offspring because of homozygosity for numerous dominant genes

pre-po-ten-t \(\)(t'n\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *praepotens*, *praepotens*, fr. *prae-* + *potens* *powerful* — more at **POTENT**] (15c) 1 *a*: having exceptional power, authority, or influence 2: exceeding others in power 2: exhibiting genetic protendency — **pre-po-ten-t-ly** *adv*

preppy or **prep-ple** \(\)(prē-'pi-*n* *pl prep-pies* [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 — **prepp-i-ly** \(\)(pə-'le) *adv* — **prepp-i-ness** \(\)(prē-'pē-nəs) *n*

pre-pran-di-al \(\)(prē-'prān-dē-əl) *adj* (1822): of, relating to, or suitable for the time just before dinner (a ~ drink)

pre-preg \(\)(prē-'preg, 'prē-\ *n* [*pre-* + *impregnated*] (1954): a reinforcing or molding material (as paper or glass cloth) already impregnated with a synthetic resin

pre-print \(\)(prē-'print, 'prē-'print) *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-'print) *v* (1926): to print in advance for later use

pre-pro-cess \(\)(prē-'prō-'ses, 'prō-, -səs) *v* (1942): to do preliminary processing of (as data) — **pre-pro-ces-sor** \(\)(sə-'sɔ-, -sɔr, -sɔr) *n*

pre-pro-fes-sion-al \(\)(prē-'prō-'fesh-nəl, 'fē-shā-nəl) *adj* (1926): of or relating to the period preceding specific study or practice of a profession

prep school *n* (1895): PREPARATORY SCHOOL

pre-pu-ber-al \(\)(prē-'pyū-'bē-'rəl) *adj* (ca. 1935): PREPUBERTAL

pre-pu-ber-tal \(\)(bər-'təl) *adj* (1859): of or relating to prepuberty

pre-pu-ber-ty \(\)(bər-'tē) *n* (1922): the period immediately preceding puberty

pre-pu-ber-cescence \(\)(prē-'pyū-'bē-'sən(t)s) *n* (1916): PREPUBERTY

pre-pu-ber-ces-cent \(\)(s-n(t) *adj* (1904): PREPUBERTAL — **pre-pu-ber-ces-cent** *n*

pre-puce \(\)(prē-'pyūs) *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *praeputium*] (15c): FORESKIN: also: a similar fold investing the clitoris — **pre-pu-tial** \(\)(prē-'pyū-'shəl) *adj*

pre-quel \(\)(prē-'kwəl) [*pre-* + *quel* (as in *segue*)] (1972): a literary or dramatic work whose story precedes that of an earlier work

Pre-Ra-pha-el-ite \(\)(prē-'rā-'fē-'līt, 'rā-, -'rā-) *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 2: an artist or writer influenced by this brotherhood 2: a modern artist dedicated to restoring early Renaissance ideals or methods — **Pre-Raphaelite** *adj* — **Pre-Raphael-ite-ism** \(\)(-līt-'tī-zəm) *n*

pre-reg-is-tration \(\)(prē-'re-'jə-'strā-shən) *n* (1967): a special registration (as for returning students) prior to an official registration period — **pre-reg-is-ter** \(\)(prē-'re-'jə-'stər) *v*

pre-re-qui-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-ro-ga-tive \(\)(prē-'rō-'gāt-iv) *n* [ME, fr. MF & L: MF, fr. L *praerogativa*. Roman century voting first in the comitia, privilege, fr. fem. of *praerogativus* 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 2: the discretionary power inhering in the British Crown 2: a distinctive excellence — **pre-ro-ga-tive-d** \(\)(-tī-vd) *adj*

pre-sage \(\)(prē-'sāj, also pri-'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*: FROGNOSTICATION 4: warning or indication of the future — **pre-sage-ful** \(\)(pri-'sāj-fəl) *adj*

pre-sage \(\)(prē-'sāj, pri-'sāj) *vb* **pre-saged**; **pre-sag-ing** *vt* (1562) 1: to give an omen or warning of: FORESHADOW 2: FORETELL, PREDICT ~ *vi*: to make or utter a prediction — **pre-sager** *n*, *obs*

pre-sanct-ified \(\)(prē-'səŋ(k)-'tī-'fīd) *adj* (1758): consecrated at a previous service — used of eucharistic elements

pres-by-ope \(\)(prēz-'bē-'ōp, 'pres-'bē-, -pē-) *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-ə, 'pres-'ō-) *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** \(\)(-'ō-pik, -'ā-) *adj* or *n*

pres-by-ter \(\)(prēz-'bā-'tər, 'pres-'n [LL, elder, priest, fr. Gk *presbyteros*, compar. of *presbys* 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-'tē-rāt, 'pres-, -rāt) *n*

pres-by-ter-i-al \(\)(prēz-'bā-'tir-ē-əl, 'pres-'ād) *adj* (ca. 1600): of or relating to presbyters or a presbytery — **pres-by-ter-i-al-ly** \(\)(-ē-ə-'lē) *adv*

presbyterial *n*, often *cap* (1928): an organization of Presbyterian women associated with a presbytery

Pres-by-ter-i-an \(\)(-ē-'ən) *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** \(\)(-ē-'ə-nī-zəm) *n*

pres-by-tery \(\)(prēz-'bā-'ter-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-\ *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 \(\)(skū-'lār) *n* (1946) 1: a child not yet old enough for school 2: a child attending a preschool

pre-science \(\)(prē-'shē-'n(t)s, 'prē-, -s(-)n(t)s) *n* [ME, fr. LL *praescientia*, fr. L *praesciens*, *praesciens*, pp. 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** \(\)(sh(-)n(t), -s(-)n(t) *adj* — **pre-scient-ly** *adv*

pre-sci-en-tif-ic \(\)(prē-'si-'n(t)'fīk) *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 \(\)(pri-'sīnd) *vb* [L *praescindere* to cut off in front, fr. *prae-* + *scindere* to cut — more at **SHEED**] (1650): to withdraw one's attention ~ *vi*: 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 \(\)(pri-'skrib) *vb* **pre-scribed**; **pre-scrib-ing** [ME, fr. L *praescribere* to write at the beginning, dictate, order, fr. *prae-* + *scribere* to write — more at **SCRIBE**] (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** 2: to specify with authority 2: to designate or order the use of as a remedy — **pre-scrib-er** *n*

pre-script \(\)(prē-'skript, pri-'skript) *adj* [ME, fr. L *praescriptus*, pp.] (ca. 1540): prescribed as a rule — **pre-script** \(\)(prē-'skript) *n*

pre-scription \(\)(pri-'skrip-shən) *n* [partly fr. ME *prescripcion* 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 *praescription*, *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 2: 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 (as 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 \(\)(pri-'skrip-tiv) *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) *vt* (ca. 1859): to choose in advance usu. on the basis of a particular criterion — **pre-se-lec-tion** \(\)(-'lek-shən) *n*

pre-sell \(\)(prē-'sel) *vt* **-sold** \(\)(-'sōld); **-sell-ing** (1947) 1: to precondition (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 *pre-selling* film rights)

pre-sen-ence \(\)(prē-'zən(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 *a*: 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**

pres-ent \(\)(pri-'znt) *vb* [ME, fr. OF *presenter*, fr. L *praesentare*, fr. *praesent*, *praesens*, *adj.*] *vt* (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 ~ 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 ~ *vi* 1: to present a weapon 2: to become manifest 3: to come forward as a patient 4: to make a presentation *syn* see **GIVE** — **pres-ent-er** *n*

pres-ent \(\)(prē-'znt) *adj* [ME, fr. OF, fr. L *praesent-*, *praesens*, fr. pp. 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\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ə\ ace \ə\ mop, mar \ə\ out \ə\ chin \ət\ bet \ə\ easy \ət\ go \ə\ hit \ət\ ice \ə\ job \ət\ sing \ət\ go \ət\ law \ət\ boy \ə\ thin \ə\ the \ət\ loot \ət\ foot \ə\ yet \ə\ vision \ə, k, " , œ, ō, u, ū, ɤ see Guide to Pronunciation