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R'S

# New Collegiate Dictionary

*A Merriam-Webster®*

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probation-er \sh(ə)nt\ n 1: one (as a newly admitted student nurse) whose fitness is being tested during a trial period 2: a convicted offender on probation

probation officer n: an officer appointed to investigate, report on, and supervise the conduct of convicted offenders on probation

probative \prō-bət-iv\ adj 1: serving to test or try: EXPLORATORY 2: serving to prove: SUBSTANTIATING

probato-ry \prō-bə-tōr-ē, -tōr-\ adj: PROBATIVE

probe \prōb\ n [ML proba examination, fr. L probare] 1: a slender surgical instrument for examining a cavity 2: a: a pointed metal tip for making electrical contact with a circuit element being checked b: a device used to penetrate or send back information esp. from outer space c: a pipe on the receiving airplane thrust into the drogue of the delivering airplane in air refueling 3 a: the action of probing b: a penetrating or critical investigation

INQUIRY c: a tentative exploratory advance or survey

probe vb probed; probing vt 1: to examine with or as if with a probe 2: to investigate thoroughly ~ vi: to make an exploratory investigation SYN see ENTER — prob-er n

prob-er-ic \prō-bēr-ē-sid\ n liturg. fr. propyl + benzoic acid] 1: a drug C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> that acts on renal tubular function and is used to inhibit the excretion of some drugs (as penicillin) and to increase the excretion of urates in gout

prob-ity \prō-bət-ē\ n [MF probité, fr. L probat, probitas, fr. probus honest — more at PROVE] adherence to the highest principles and ideals: UPRIGHTNESS SYN see HONESTY

problem \prō-bləm, -bləm, -lēm\ n [ME problema, fr. MF, fr. L problema, fr. Gk problēma, lit., something thrown forward, fr. proballein to throw forward, fr. pro- forward + ballein to throw — more at PRO, DEVIL] 1 a: a question raised for inquiry, consideration, or solution b: a proposition in mathematics or physics stating something to be done 2 a: an intricate unsettled question b: a source of perplexity, distress, or vexation SYN see MYSTERY

problem adj 1: dealing with a problem of human conduct or social relationship (a ~ play) 2: difficult to deal with (a ~ child)

problem-atic \prō-blə-mat-ik\ or problem-atical \-i-kəl\ adj 1 a: difficult to solve or decide: PUZZLING b: not definite or settled (their future remains ~) c: open to question or debate: QUESTIONABLE 2: expressing or supporting a possibility SYN see DOUBTFUL — problem-ati-cal-ly \-i-k(ə)-lē\ adv

proboscide-an \prō-bās-ō-dē-ən\ or proboscidean \prō-bās-ō-dē-ən, (prō-) n (deriv. of L proboscis, proboscis) 1: any of an order (Proboscidea) of large mammals comprising the elephants and extinct related forms — proboscidean adj

proboscis \prō-bās-əs\ n, pl -bosces also -bos-cides \-bās-ō-dēz\ [L, fr. Gk proboskis, fr. pro- + boskein to feed; akin to Lith gauja herd] 1 a: the trunk of an elephant; also: any long flexible snout b: the human nose esp. when prominent 2: any of various elongated or extensible tubular processes (as the sucking organ of a butterfly) of the oral region of an invertebrate

prob-er-ic \prō-bēr-ē-sid\ n [ISV prō + cocaine] 1: a basic ester C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>7</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> of para-aminobenzoic acid; also: its crystalline hydrochloride used as a local anesthetic

pro-cam-bi-um \prō-kam-bē-əm\ n [NL] 1: the part of a plant meristem that forms cambium and primary vascular tissues — pro-cam-bi-al \-bē-əl\ adj

pro-cary-ote \prō-kar-ē-ōt\ n [pro- + Gk karyōtos provided with nuts — more at EUKARYOTE] 1: a cellular organism (as a bacterium or a blue-green alga) that does not have a distinct nucleus — compare EUKARYOTE — pro-cary-otic \prō-kar-ē-ōt-ik\ adj

pro-ca-the-dral \prō-kə-thē-drəl\ n: a parish church used as a cathedral

pro-ce-dur-al \prō-sē-j(ə)-rəl\ adj: of or relating to procedure esp. of courts or other bodies administering substantive law — pro-ce-dur-al-ly \-əl\ adv

pro-ce-dure \prō-sē-jər\ n [F procédure, fr. MF, fr. proceder] 1 a: a particular way of accomplishing something or of acting b: a step in a procedure 2: a series of steps followed in a regular definite order (legal ~) 3 a: a traditional or established way of doing things b: PROTOCOL 3

pro-ceed \prō-sēd, prō- vi [ME proceden, fr. MF proceder, fr. L procedere, fr. pro- forward + cedere to go — more at PRO, CEDE] 1: to come forth from a source: ISSUE 2 a: to continue after a pause or interruption b: to go on in an orderly regulated way 3 a: to begin and carry on an action, process, or movement b: to be in the process of being accomplished 4: to move along a course: ADVANCE SYN see SPRING

pro-ceed-ing n 1: PROCEDURE 2 pl: EVENTS, HAPPENINGS 3 pl: legal action (divorce ~) 4: AFFAIR, TRANSACTION 5 pl: an official record of things said or done

pro-ceeds \prō-sēdz, n pl 1: the total amount brought in (the ~ of a sale) 2: the net amount received (as for a check or from an insurance settlement) after deduction of any discount or charges

pro-ce-phal-ic \prō-sə-fal-ik\ adj: relating to, forming, or situated on or near the front of the head

pro-cer-coid \prō-sər-kōid\ n [pro- + Gk kerkos tail] 1: the solid first parasitic larva of some tapeworms that develops usu. in the body cavity of a copepod

pro-cess \prās-es, prōs-, -əs\ n, pl pro-cess-es \-es-əz, -ə-səz, -ə-sēz\ [ME proces, fr. MF, fr. L processus, fr. processus, pp. of procedere] 1 a: PROGRESS, ADVANCE b: something going on: PROCEEDING 2 a: a natural phenomenon marked by gradual changes that lead toward a particular result (the ~ of growth) b: a series of actions or operations conducting to an end; esp: a continuous operation or treatment esp. in manufacture 3 a: the whole course of proceedings in a legal action b: the summons, mandate, or writ used by a court to compel the appearance of the defendant in a legal action or compliance with its orders 4: a

prominent or projecting part of an organism or organic structure (a bone ~): E: CONK

process vt 1 a: to proceed against by law: PROSECUTE b (1) : to take out a summons against (2) : to serve a summons on 2 a: to subject to a special process or treatment (as in the course of manufacture) b: to work (hair) into a comb

process adj 1: treated or made by a special process esp. when involving synthesis or artificial modification 2: made by or used in a mechanical or photomechanical duplicating process 3: of or involving illusory effects usu. introduced during processing of the film (a ~ motion-picture scene)

pro-cess \prō-sēs\ v [back-formation fr. 'procession] chiefly Brit: to move in a procession

pro-cess cheese \prās-es-, prōs-, -əs\ n: a cheese made by blending several lots of cheese

pro-cess-ible or pro-cess-able \prās-es-ə-bəl, prōs-\ adj: suitable for processing: capable of being processed — pro-cess-ibil-ity or pro-cess-abil-ity \prās-es-ə-bil-ə-tē, prōs-\ n

pro-ces-sion \prō-sesh-ən\ n 1 a: a continuous forward movement: PROGRESSION b: EMANATION (the Holy Ghost's ~ from the Father) 2 a: a group of individuals moving along in an orderly often ceremonial way b: SUCCESSION, MOVING

pro-ces-sion vi, archaic: to go in procession

pro-ces-sion-al \prō-sesh-nəl, -ən-\ n 1: a book containing material for a procession 2: a musical composition (as a hymn) designed for a procession 3: a ceremonial procession

pro-ces-sional adj: of, relating to, or moving in a procession — pro-ces-sion-al-ly \-əl\ adv

pro-cess-er \prās-es-ər, prōs-\ n 1: one that processes (food ~) 2 a (1) : COMPUTER (2) : the part of a computer system that operates on data — called also central processing unit b: a computer program (as a compiler) that puts another program into a form acceptable to the computer

process printing n: a method of printing from halftone plates in usu. three or more colors so that nearly any hue may be reproduced

pro-cēs-ver-bal \prō-sə-vər-bəl, -(j)ver-\ n, pl pro-cēs-ver-baux \-bō\ [F, lit., verbal trial]: an official written record

pro-claim \prō-klām, prō-\ v [ME proclamen, fr. MF or L, MF proclamare, fr. L proclamare, fr. pro- before + clamare to cry out — more at PRO, CLAIM] 1 a: to declare publicly, typically insistently, proudly, or defiantly and in either speech or writing: ANNOUNCE b: to give outward indication of: SHOW 2: to declare or declare to be solemnly, officially, or formally (~ an amnesty) (~ the country a republic) 3: to praise or glorify openly or publicly: EXTOL SYN see DECLARE — pro-claim-er n

pro-cla-ma-tion \prō-klā-mā-shən\ n [ME proclamacion, fr. MF proclamacion, fr. L proclamatio, fr. proclamatus, pp. of proclamare] 1: the action of proclaiming: the state of being proclaimed 2: something proclaimed; specif: an official formal public announcement

pro-clim-ax \prō-kli-maks\ n: an ecological community that suggests a climax in stability and permanence but is not primarily the product of climate

pro-clit-ic \prō-klit-ik\ adj [NL procliticus, fr. Gk pro- + LL -cliticus (as in encliticus enclitic)]: of, relating to, or constituting a word or particle without sentence stress that is accentually dependent upon a following stressed word and is pronounced with it as a phonetic unit — pro-clitic n

pro-cliv-ity \prō-kliv-ə-tē\ n, pl -ties [L proclivitas, fr. proclivus sloping, prone, fr. pro- forward + clivus hill — more at PRO, DECLIVITY]: an inclination or predisposition toward something; esp: a strong inherent inclination toward something objectionable SYN see LEANING

Pro-cne \prōk-nē\ n [L, fr. Gk Prokne]: the wife of Tereus changed to a swallow while fleeing with her sister from Tereus

pro-con-sul \prō-kən(-)səl\ n [ME, fr. L, fr. pro consul for a consul] 1: a governor or military commander of an ancient Roman province 2: an administrator in a modern colony, dependency, or occupied area usu. with wide powers — pro-con-sul-er \-s(ə)-lər\ adj — pro-con-sulate \-s(ə)-lət\ n — pro-con-sul-ship \-səl-ship\ n

pro-cras-ti-nate \pr(ə)-kras-tē-nāt, prō-\ vb -nat-ed; -nat-ing [L procrastinatus, pp. of procrastinare, fr. pro- forward + crastinus of tomorrow, fr. cras tomorrow] vt: to put off intentionally and habitually ~ vi: to put off intentionally and reprehensibly the doing of something that should be done — pro-cras-ti-na-tion \-kras-tā-nā-shən\ n — pro-cras-ti-na-tor \-kras-tā-nāt-ər\ n

pro-cre-ant \prō-kre-ənt\ adj 1: producing offspring 2 archaic: of or relating to procreation

pro-cre-ate \-āt\ vb -at-ed; -at-ing [L procreatus, pp. of procreare, fr. pro- forth + creare to create — more at PRO, CREATE] vt: to beget or bring forth (offspring): PROPAGATE ~ vi: to beget or bring forth offspring: REPRODUCE — pro-cre-ation \prō-kre-ā-shən\ n — pro-cre-ative \prō-kre-āt-iv\ adj — pro-cre-ator \-āt-ər\ n

pro-crus-te-an \pr(ə)-kras-tē-ən, prō-\ adj, often cap P: 1: of, relating to, or typical of Procrustes 2: marked by arbitrary often ruthless disregard of individual differences or special circumstances

procrustean bed n, often cap P: a scheme or pattern into which someone or something is arbitrarily forced

Pro-crus-tes \pr(ə)-kras-(j)tez, prō-\ n [L, fr. Gk Prokrostatēs]: a giant of Eleusis who forced travelers to fit one of two unequally long beds by stretching their bodies or cutting off their legs

pro-cryp-tic \prō-krip-tik\ adj [pro- (as in protect) + cryptic]: of, relating to, or being a concealing pattern or shade of coloring esp. in insects

pro-c-to-dae-um \prāk-tə-dē-əm\ n, pl -daeae \-dē-ə\ or -dae-ums [NL, fr. Gk proktos anus + hodōs way — more at CEDE]: the posterior ectodermal part of the alimentary canal formed in the embryo by invagination of the outer body wall

pro-cto-log-ic \prāk-tō-lō-jē\ n [Gk proktos anus + E -logy]: a branch of medicine dealing with the structure and diseases of the anus, rectum, and sigmoid colon — pro-cto-log-ic \prāk-tō-lō-j-