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

proba-to-ry \prə-bə-tōr-ē, -tōr-\ adj: PROBATIVE

probe \prɒb\ 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 2 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 \prə-bēr-ē-sid\ n litteg. fr. propyl + benzoic acid 1: a drug C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</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 \prɒb-ət-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 \prɒbləm, -prɒb-əm, -ləm\ 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 \prɒb-lə-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

proboscidean \prə-bɒs-ə-ˈde-ən\ or proboscidean \prə-bɒs-ˈɪd-ē-ən, (prɒ-) n (deriv. of L proboscis, proboscis) any of an order (Proboscidea) of large mammals comprising the elephants and extinct related forms — proboscidean adj

proboscis \prə-bɒs-əs\ n, pl -bosces also -bos-cides \-bɒs-ə-ˈdēz\ [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 \prə-bēr-ē-sid\ n litteg. fr. propyl + benzoic acid 1: a drug C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>9</sub>NO<sub>2</sub> of para-aminobenzoic acid; also: its crystalline hydrochloride used as a local anesthetic

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

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

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

pro-ce-dur-al \prə-sēj-(ə)r-əl\ 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 \prə-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 \prɒ-sēd, prə- 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 \prɒ-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 \prɒ-sə-ˈfæl-ik\ adj: relating to, forming, or situated on or near the front of the head

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

pro-cess \præs-es, prɒs-, -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 ~): B; 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 \prə-ˈsɛs\ v [back-formation fr. 'procession] chiefly Brit: to move in a procession

pro-cess cheese \præs-ˈɛs-, prɒs-, -əs\ n: a cheese made by blending several lots of cheese

pro-cess-ible or pro-cess-able \præs-ˈɛs-ə-bəl, prɒs-ə-ˈbəl\ adj: suitable for processing: capable of being processed — pro-cess-ibil-ity or pro-cess-abil-ity \præs-ˈɛs-ə-bil-ə-ti, prɒs-ə-ˈbəl-ə-ti\ n

pro-ces-sion \prɒ-ˈsɛsh-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 \prɒ-ˈsɛsh-nəl, -ən-əl\ 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-sion-al-ly \-əl-ē\ adv

pro-cess-er \præs-ˈɛs-ər, prɒs-ə-ˈr\ 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-ces-ver-bal \prɒ-sə-vər-bəl, -(j)ver-əl\ n, pl pro-ces-ver-baux \-bɔ\ [F, lit., verbal trial]: an official written record

pro-claim \prɒ-ˈklæm, prə- v [ME proclamare, 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-claim-er n

pro-claim-ment \prɒ-ˈklæm-nt\ n [ME proclamacion, fr. MF proclamation, fr. L proclamatio, -clamatō, 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 \prɒ-ˈkli-maks\ n: an ecological community that suggests a climax in stability and permanence but is not primarily the product of climate

pro-clit-ic \prɒ-ˈklit-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 \prɒ-ˈkliv-ə-ti, 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 \prɒk-nē\ n [L, fr. Gk Prokne]: the wife of Tereus changed to a swallow while fleeing with her sister from Tereus

pro-con-sul \prɒ-ˈkɒn(s)-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 \prɒ-ˈkras-tə-nāt, prɒ- v b -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-tə-ˈnā-shən\ n — pro-cras-ti-na-tor \-kras-tə-nāt-ər\ n

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

pro-cre-ate \-ət\ 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 \prɒ-kre-ˈā-shən\ n — pro-cre-ative \prɒ-kre-ˈæt-iv\ adj — pro-cre-ator \-ət-ər\ n

pro-crus-te-an \prɒ-ˈkras-tē-ən, prɒ- v\ 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 \prɒ-ˈkras-(j)tez, prɒ- n [L, fr. Gk Prokrotes]: 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 \prɒ-ˈkrip-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 \prɒk-tə-ˈdē-əm\ n, pl -daeae \-dē-ə\ or -dae-ums [NL, fr. Gk proktos anus + hodós 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 \prɒk-tɒ-lɒj-ik\ 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 \prɒk-tɒ-lɒj-