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preventive  
prideful

antecedent or preventive. 2. Attention to another's needs.  
**pre-ven-ient** (pri-vén/'yont) *adj.* 1. Coming before; preceding.  
 2. Expectant; anticipatory. [Lat. *praeveniēns, praevenient-*,  
*pr.* part. of *praevenire*, to precede: *prae-*, pre- + *venire*, to  
 come; see **g<sup>wa</sup>-a**.] — **pre-ven/ient-ly** *adv.*  
**pre-vent** (pri-vén/'t) *v.* -vent-ed, -vent-ing, -vents. — *tr.*  
 1. To keep from happening. 2. To keep (someone) from doing  
 something; impede. 3. *Archaic.* To anticipate or counter in  
 advance. 4. *Archaic.* To come before; precede. — *intr.* To pre-  
 sent an obstacle. [ME *preventen*, to anticipate < Lat. *prae-*  
*venire, praevent-*: *prae-*, pre- + *venire*, to come; see **g<sup>wa</sup>-a**.]  
 — **pre-vent/a·bil/i·ty**, **pre-vent/i·bil/i·ty** *n.* — **pre-**  
**vent/a·ble**, **pre-vent/i·ble** *adj.* — **pre-vent'er** *n.*  
**pre-ven-tion** (pri-vén/'shan) *n.* 1. The act of preventing or  
 impeding. 2. A hindrance; an obstacle.  
**pre-ven-tive** (pri-vén/'tiv) also **pre-ven-ta-tive** (-tə-tiv)  
 — *adj.* 1. Intended or used to prevent or hinder. 2. Carried  
 out to deter expected aggression by hostile forces. 3. Preventing  
 or slowing the course of an illness or a disease; prophylactic.  
 — *n.* 1. Something that prevents; an obstacle. 2. Something  
 that prevents or slows the course of an illness or a  
 disease. — **pre-ven-tive-ly** *adv.* — **pre-ven-tive-ness** *n.*  
**pre-verb** (pré/'vərb/) *n.* *Ling.* A prefix or particle preceding  
 the root or stem of a verb, as *for-* in *forget*. — **pre-verb'** *adj.*  
**pre-verb'al** (pré-'vərb/əl) *adj.* 1. *Gram.* Preceding the verb.  
 2. a. Having not yet learned to speak: *preverbal children*.  
 b. Marked by the absence of spoken language.  
**pre-view** also **pre-vue** (pré/'vyoo/) — *n.* 1. A showing, as of  
 art, to which a selected audience is invited before public presen-  
 tation. 2. An advance viewing or exhibition, esp. of scenes  
 advertising a forthcoming movie; a trailer. 3. An introductory or  
 preliminary message, sample, or overview; a foretaste.  
 — *tr.v.* -viewed, -view-ing, -views also -vued, -vu-ing, -vues.  
 1. To view or exhibit in advance. 2. To provide a preliminary  
 sample or overview of.  
**pre-vi-ous** (pré/'vë-əs) *adj.* 1. Existing or occurring before  
 something else in time or order; prior. 2. *Informal.* Acting,  
 occurring, or done too soon; premature. [ < Lat. *praevious*,  
 going before: *prae-*, pre- + *via*, way; see **wegh-**.] — **pre-**  
**vi-ous-ly** *adv.* — **pre-vi-ous-ness** *n.*  
**previous question** *n.* A parliamentary motion to take a vote on  
 the main question being considered.  
**previous** *prep.* Prior to; before.  
**pre-vice** (pri-'viz/) *tr.v.* -vised, -vis-ing, -vis-es. 1. To know in  
 advance; foresee. 2. To notify in advance; forewarn. [ME *pre-*  
*visen* < Lat. *praevidēre, praevis-*: *prae-*, pre- + *vidēre*, to see;  
 see **weld-**.] — **pre-vi-sor** *n.*  
**pre-vi-sion** (pri-'vizh/ən) *n.* 1. Prescience; foresight. 2. A pre-  
 diction. — *tr.v.* -sioned, -sion-ing, -sions. To foresee. — **pre-**  
**vi-sion-al**, **pre-vi-sion-ar'y** (-vizh/ə-nēr'ē) *adj.*  
**pre-vo-cal-ic** (pré/'vō-kāl'ik) *adj.* *Ling.* 1. Preceding a vowel.  
 2. Of or relating to a form of a linguistic element, such as a  
 prefix, that occurs only before a vowel.  
**pre-vo-ca-tion-al** (pré/'vō-kā'shə-nəl) *adj.* Of or relating to  
 instruction given in preparation for vocational school.  
**Pré-vost d'Ex-lles** (prā-vō' deg-zel'), **Antoine François**.  
 "Abbé Prévost." 1697–1763. French writer and cleric known  
 for the novel *Manon Lescaut* (1731).  
**pre-washed** (pré/'wōsh't/, -wōsh't') *adj.* Washed by the man-  
 ufacturer so as to impart a softer texture or faded appearance.  
**pre-writ-ing** (pré/'ri'ting) *n.* The creation and arrangement of  
 ideas preliminary to writing.  
**prex-y** (prék/'sē) *n., pl. -ies.* *Slang.* A president, esp. of a college  
 or university. [Shortening and alteration of **PREsIDENT**.]  
**prey** (prā) *n.* 1. An animal hunted or caught for food; quarry.  
 2. One that is defenseless, esp. in the face of attack; a victim.  
 3. The act or practice of preying. — *intr.v.* preyed, prey-ing,  
 preys. 1. To hunt, catch, or eat prey. 2. To victimize someone  
 or make a profit at someone else's expense. 3. To plunder or  
 pillage. 4. To exert a baneful or injurious effect. [ME *preie* <  
 OFr. < Lat. *praeda*, booty, prey. See **ghend-**.] — **prey'er** *n.*  
*prf. abbr. Print. Proof.*  
**Pri-am** (pri-'əm) *n.* *Gk. Myth.* The father of Paris, Hector, and  
 Cassandra and king of Troy, who was killed when his city fell  
 to the Greeks.  
**pri-a·pic** (pri-'ā'pik, -āp'ik) also **pri-a·pe·an** (pri-'ā-pē'an)  
*adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or resembling a phallus; phallic. 2. Re-  
 lating to or overly concerned with masculinity. [ < **PRIAPUS**.]  
**pri-a·pism** (pri-'ā-piz'əm) *n.* Persistent, usu. painful erection  
 of the penis, esp. as a consequence of disease. [Fr. *priapisme*  
 < LLat. *priapismus* < Gk. *priapismos* < *priapizein*, to have  
 an erection < *Priapos, Priapus*.]  
**pri-a·pus** (pri-'ā'pas) *n.* 1. *Priapus.* *Gk. & Rom. Myth.* The  
 god of procreation, guardian of gardens and vineyards, and  
 personification of the erect phallus. 2. An image of this god,  
 often used as a scarecrow in ancient gardens. 3. A represen-  
 tation of a phallus. [Lat. *Priapus* < Gk. *Priapos*.]  
**Prib-i·lof Islands** (prib'ə-lōf'). A group of islands off SW AK  
 in the Bering Sea; named by a Russian explorer in 1786.  
**price** (pris) *n.* 1. The amount as of money or goods, asked for  
 or given in exchange for something else. 2. The cost at which  
 something is obtained. 3. The cost of bribing someone. 4. A

reward offered for the capture or killing of a person. 5. *Ar-*  
*chaic.* Value or worth. — *tr.v.* priced, pric-ing, pric-es. 1. To  
 fix or establish a price for. 2. To find out the price of.  
 — *Idiom.* price out of the market. To force (oneself or one's  
 goods or services) from commercial demand by charging too  
 much. [ME *pris* < OFr. < Lat. *pretium*. See **per-s\***.]  
 — **price/a·ble** *adj.* — **pric'er** *n.*  
**Price** (pris), (Mary) **Leontyne**. b. 1927. Amer. soprano who  
 performed with the Metropolitan Opera (1961–85).  
**price-earn-ings ratio** (pris'ūr'ningz) *n.* The ratio of the mar-  
 ket price of a common stock to its earnings per share.  
**price fix-ing** also **price-fix-ing** (pris'fik'ing) *n.* 1. The set-  
 ting of commodity prices by a government. 2. The result of an  
 unlawful agreement between manufacturers or dealers to set  
 and maintain prices on typically competing products.  
**price index** *n.* A number relating prices of a group of com-  
 modities to their prices during an arbitrarily chosen base pe-  
 riod.  
**price-less** (pris'lis) *adj.* 1. Of inestimable worth; invaluable.  
 2. Highly amusing, absurd, or odd. — **price/less-ly** *adv.*  
**price support** *n.* Maintenance of prices, as of a commodity, at  
 a certain level usu. through government intervention.  
**price tag** *n.* 1. A label attached to a piece of merchandise indi-  
 cating its price. 2. The cost of something.  
**price war** *n.* An intense competition for sales based on under-  
 selling.  
**pric-ey** also **pric-y** (pri'sē) *adj.* -i-er, -i-est. *Informal.* Expensive:  
 a *pric-ey restaurant*. — **pric-ey-ness** *n.* — **pric/i·ly** *adv.*  
**Prich-ard** (prich'ərd). A city of SW AL, a suburb of Mobile.  
 Pop. 34,311.  
**prick** (prik) *n.* 1. a. The act of piercing or pricking. b. The  
 sensation of being pierced or pricked. 2. a. A persistent or  
 sharply painful feeling of sorrow or remorse. b. A small sharp  
 local pain, such as that made by a needle. 3. A small mark or  
 puncture made by a pointed object. 4. A pointed object, such  
 as a goad or a thorn. 5. A hare's track or footprint. 6. *Vulgar*  
*Slang.* A penis. 7. *Vulgar Slang.* A man regarded as contempt-  
 ible. — *v.* pricked, prick-ing, pricks. — *tr.* 1. To puncture  
 lightly. 2. To affect with a mental or emotional pang, as of  
 sorrow or remorse. 3. To impel as if with a spur; urge on.  
 4. To mark or delineate on a surface by means of small punc-  
 tures. 5. *Naut.* To measure with dividers on a chart. 6. To  
 pierce the quick of (a horse's hoof) while shoeing. 7. To trans-  
 plant (seedlings, for example) before final planting. 8. To  
 cause to stand erect or point upward. — *intr.* 1. To pierce or  
 puncture something or cause a pricking feeling. 2. To feel a  
 pang or twinge from or as if from being pricked. 3. a. To spur  
 a horse on. b. To ride at a gallop. 4. To stand erect; point  
 upward. — *Idiom.* prick up (one's) ears. To listen with at-  
 tentive interest. [ME < OE *prica*, puncture.]  
**prick-er** (prik'ər) *n.* 1. One, such as a pricking tool, that pierces  
 or pricks. 2. A prickle or thorn.  
**prick-et** (prik'it) *n.* 1. a. A small point or spike for holding a  
 candle upright. b. A candlestick having such a spike. 2. A  
 buck in its second year, before the antlers branch. [ME *priket*,  
 dim. of *prik, prick*, prick. See **FRICK**.]  
**prick-le** (prik'lē) *n.* 1. A small sharp point, spine, or thorn.  
 2. A tingling or pricking sensation. — *v.* -led, -ling, -les. — *tr.*  
 1. To prick as if with a thorn. 2. To cause a prickle in. — *intr.*  
 1. To feel a prickle. 2. To rise or stand up like prickles. [ME  
*prikel* < OE *pricel*.]  
**prick-ly** (prik'lē) *adj.* -li-er, -li-est. 1. Having prickles.  
 2. Marked by pricking or tingling or smarting: *a prickly sen-*  
*sation in my foot*. 3. a. Causing trouble or vexation; thorny:  
*a prickly situation*. b. Bristling or irritable. — **prick/li·ness** *n.*  
**prickly ash** *n.* 1. Any of numerous cosmopolitan deciduous or  
 evergreen shrubs or trees of the genus *Zanthoxylum*, having  
 alternate, mostly pinnate leaves. 2. See **Hercules' club** 1.  
**prickly heat** *n.* See **heat rash**.  
**prickly pear** *n.* 1. Any of various cacti of the genus *Opuntia*,  
 having brightly flat or terete joints, usu. yellow flowers, and  
 edible ovoid fruit. 2. The fruit of any of these plants.  
**prickly poppy** *n.* Any of various plants of the genus *Argemone*,  
 chiefly of tropical America, having large yellow, lavender, or  
 white flowers and prickly leaves, stems, and pods.  
**prick-y** (prik'ē) *adj.* -i-er, -i-est. Prickly.  
**pride** (prid) *n.* 1. A sense of one's own proper dignity or value;  
 self-respect. 2. Pleasure or satisfaction taken in an achieve-  
 ment, a possession, or an association. 3. Arrogant or disdainful  
 conduct or treatment; haughtiness. 4. a. A cause or source  
 of pleasure or satisfaction; the best of a group or class. b. The  
 most successful or thriving condition; prime: *the pride of*  
*youth*. 5. An excessively high opinion of oneself; conceit.  
 6. Mettle or spirit in horses. 7. A company of lions. 8. A  
 flamboyant or impressive group: *a pride of acrobats*. — *tr.v.*  
**prid-ed, prid-ing, prides.** To indulge (oneself) in a feeling of  
 pleasure or satisfaction: *I pride myself on this garden*. [ME <  
 OE *prīde* < *prād*, proud. See **PROUD**.]  
**Pride** (prid), **Thomas**. d. 1658. English Parliamentarian who led  
 a regiment to Parliament and expelled those who opposed the  
 condemnation of Charles I (1648).  
**pride·ful** (prid'fəl) *adj.* 1. Arrogant; disdainful. 2. Highly



pricket  
15th- or 16th-century  
bronze pricket



prickly pear  
Plains prickly pear  
*Opuntia polyacantha*

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō tōok
ā father	ōō būot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī ple	th thin
ī ple	th this
ir pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about
ō paw	item

Stress marks:  
 ' (primary);  
 ' (secondary), as in  
 dictionary (dik'shə-nēr'ē)