NCLUDES NEW WORDS FOR 2001!



RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S

COLLEGE DICTIONARY

THE RIGHT WORD EVERY TIME

- FIND THE RIGHT WORD

 More New Words Than Any Other Dictionary
 The Most Common Meanings Given First
- CHOOSE THE RIGHT WORD

 The Clearest Advice on Avoiding Offensive Language
- USE THE RIGHT WORD

 The Best Guidance on Grammar and Usage

Facebook's Exhibit No. Fx. 1117



Random House Webster's College Dictionary Copyright © 2000 by Random House, Inc.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, without the written permission of the publisher. All inquiries should be addressed to Random House Reference & Information Publishing, Random House, Inc., New York, NY. Published in the United States by Random House, Inc., New York and simultaneously in Canada by Random House of Canada Limited.

The Random House Living Dictionary Database™, Random House and colophon are registered trademarks of Random House, Inc.

The first Random House college dictionary, the American College Dictionary, was published in 1947 to critical acclaim. The first edition of the Random House Webster's College Dictionary was published in 1991. Subsequent revisions were published in 1992, 1995, and 1996. A second, completely redesigned, revised, and updated edition was published in 1997, with updates published annually thereafter. Copyright © 1999, 1998, 1996, 1995, 1992, 1991 by Random House, Inc.

Trademarks

A number of entered words which we have reason to believe constitute trademarks have been designated as such. However, no attempt has been made to designate as trademarks or service marks all words or terms in which proprietary rights might exist. The inclusion, exclusion, or definition of a word or term is not intended to affect, or to express a judgment on, the validity or legal status of the word or term as a trademark, service mark, or other proprietary term.

This book is available for special purchases in bulk by organizations and institutions, not for resale, at special discounts. Please direct your inquiries to the Random House Special Sales Department, toll-free 888-591-1200 or fax 212-572-4961.

Please address inquiries about electronic licensing of reference products, for use on a network or in software or on CD-ROM, to the Subsidiary Rights Department, Random House Reference & Information Publishing, fax 212–940-7370.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Random House Webster's college dictionary

p. cm. ISBN 0-375-42560-8

ISBN 0-375-42561-6 (Deluxe Edition)
1. English language--Dictionaries. I. Random House (Firm)

PE1628.R28 1999

423--DC21

99-12620

CIP

Visit the Random House Reference & Information Publishing Web site at www.randomwords.com

Typeset and Printed in the United States of America Typeset by the Random House Reference & Information Publishing Group

> 2000 Second Revised and Updated Random House Edition 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 April 2000

> > ISBN: 0-375-42560-8 ISBN: 0-375-42561-6 (Deluxe Edition)

New York Toronto London Sydney Auckland



1049 pretzel to pricket

to them, and often is less stilted than alternatives such as relatively,

moderately, and quite.

pret-zel (pret'sal), n. a usu. crisp, dry biscuit, typically in the form of a knot or stick, salted on the outside. [1815-25, Amer.; < G Pretzel, var. of Bretzel; OHG brizzila < ML bracellus bracelet]

Preus-sen (proi/san), n. German name of Prussia.

prev., 1. previous. 2. previously.
pre-vail (pri vāl'), v.i. 1. to be widespread or current; exist generally.
2. to appear or occur as the most important or frequent feature or element; predominate. 3. to be or prove superior in strength, power, or influence (usu, fol. by over): to prevail over one's enemies. 4. to succeed; become dominant; win out. 5. to use persuasion or inducement successfully (usu. fol. by on or upon): Can you prevail on him to go? [1350-1400; ME < L praevalere = prae Pre + valere to be strong; cf. PREVALENT] —pre-vail/er, n.

[1350-1400; ME < L praevalere = prae-PRE + valere to be strong; cf. PREVALENT] —pre-vail'er, n.

pre-vail-ing (pri vā'ling), adj. 1. most frequent; predominant: pre-vailing winds. 2. generally current: the prevailing opinion. 3. having superior power or influence. [1580-90] —pre-vail'ing-ily, adv.

Pré-val (prā val'), n. René, born 1943, president of Haiti since 1996.

prev-a-lent (prev'a lant), adj. 1. widespread; of wide extent or occurrence; in general use or acceptance. 2. having the superiority or ascendancy; dominant. 3. Archaic. potent or efficacious. [1570-80; < L praevalent. (s. of praevalens), prp. of praevalēre to PREVAIL] —prev'a-a-lence, n. —prev'a-lent-ily, adv.

pre-var-i-cate (pri var'i kāt'), v.i., -cat-ed, -cat-ing, to speak falsely, misleadingly, or so as to avoid the truth; deliberately misstate; equivocate; lie. [1575-85; < L praevaricātus, ptp. of praevaricārī to straddle something, (of an advocate) collude with an opponent's advocate] —pre-var-i-ca*tion, n. —pre-var-i-ca*ton, n. —pre-var-i-ca*ton

anticipatory. [1600-10; < L praeventient: (s. of praeventiens) coming before, prp. of praeventre to anticipate] —pre-ven/ience, n. pre-vent (pri vent'), v.t. 1. to keep from occurring; stop: to prevent illness. 2. to stop from doing something: There is nothing to prevent us from going. 3. Archaic. a. to act ahead of; forestall. b. to precede. c. to anticipate. —v.t. 4. to interpose a hindrance: We will come if nothing prevents. [1375-1425; < L praeventus, ptp. of praeventre onticipate = prae-PRE- + ventre to come] —pre-vent'a-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, adj. —pre-vent'a-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, adj. —pre-vent'a-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, adj. —pre-vent'a-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, adj. —pre-vent'i-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, adj. —pre-vent'i-ble, pre-vent'i-ble, pre-ven of action or progress. To prevent is to stop something effectually by forestalling action and rendering it impossible: to prevent the sending of a message. To HAMPER is to clog or entangle or put an embarrassing restraint upon: to hamper preparations for a trip. To HINDER is to keep back by delaying or stopping progress or action: to hinder the progress of an expedition. To IMPED is to make difficult the movement or progress of an expedition. To IMPED is to make difficult the movement or progress of anything by interfering with its proper functioning.

of an expedition. To IMPEDE is to make difficult the movement or progress of anything by interfering with its proper functioning: to impede a discussion by demanding repeated explanations.

pre-ven-tion (pri ven/shan), n. 1. the act of preventing; effectual hindrance. 2. something that prevents; preventive. [1520-30; < LL] pre-ven-tive (pri ven/tiv) also pre-vent-a-tive (-ta tiv), adj. 1. serving to prevent or hinder: preventive measures. 2. concerned with prevention, as of disease: preventive medicine. —n. 3. a drug or other substance for preventing disease. 4. a preventive agent or measure. [1630-40] pre-ven/tive-ly, adv. —pre-ven/tive-ness, n. pre-view (prē/vyōo/), n. 1. an earlier or advance view. 2. an advance showing of a motion picture, play, etc., before its public opening. 3. an advance showing of brief scenes in a motion picture, television show, etc., for purposes of advertisement. 4. anything that gives an advance idea or impression of something to come. —v.t. 5. to view or show beforehand or in advance. [1600-10]

pre-vi-ous (prē/vē as), adj. 1. coming or occurring before something

pre-vi-ous (prê/vê as), adj. 1. coming or occurring before something else; prior: the previous owner. 2. Informal. done, occurring, etc., before the proper time; premature: Aren't you a little previous with that request? —Idiom. 3. previous to, before; prior to. [1615-25; < L praevius going before = prae-PRE-+-vius, adj. der. of via way; see ous]—pre/vi-ous-ner/vi-ous-ners, n.
pre/vi-ous-ques/tion, n. a parliamentary motion that a vote be

taken at once on the main question, cutting off further debate. [1690-

pre-vi-sion (pri vizh/an), n. 1. foresight, foreknowledge, or pre-science. 2. a prediction; forecast. —v.t. 3. to see beforehand; foresee. [1605-15] —pre-vi/sion-al, adj. pre-vo-cal-ic (prē/vō kal/ik), adj. immediately preceding a vowel. Pré-vost d'Ex-iles (psā vō/ deg zēl/), n. Antoine François ("Abbé Prévost"), 1697-1763, French novelist.

pre-washed (pre-vosht, -wosht), adj. washed before sale, esp. to produce a soft texture or a worn look: prewashed jeans.

prex-y (prek-se), n., pl. prex-ies Slang, a president, esp. of a college or university. [1870-75, (by shortening and alter. of president) + -x²]

prey (prā), n. 1. an animal hunted or seized for food, esp. by a car-

nivorous animal. 2. a person or thing that is the victim of an enemy, nivorous animal. 2. a person or thing that is the victim of an enemy, disease, swindler, injurious agency, etc. 3. the action or habit of preying: a beast of prey. 4. Archaic. booty or plunder. —v.t. (usu. fol. by on or upon) 5. to seize and devour prey: Foxes prey on rabbits. 6. to make raids or attacks for booty or plunder: The Vikings preyed on coastal settlements. 7. to exert a harmful or destructive and often obsessive influence: The problem preyed upon his mind. 8. to victimize another or others: loan sharks who prey upon the poor. [1200–50; ME preye < OF < L praeda booty, prey] —prey/er, n. prez (prez), n. Slang, president. [1890–95; by shortening and resp.] PRF, Puerto Rican female.

PRF, Puerto Rican female.

prf., proof

Pri-am (pri/am), n. a legendary king of Troy, the father of Paris, Cassandra, and Hector

pri-ap-ic (pri aprik), adj. 1. PHALLIC. 2. exaggeratedly concerned with masculinity and male sexuality. [1780-90]
pri-ap-ism (pri/a piz/am), n. 1. continuous, usu. nonsexual erection of the penis, esp. due to disease. 2. prurient behavior or display.

Pri-a-pus (pri a/pas), n. 1. an ancient Greek god of male procreative power. 2. (i.c.) PHALLUS.

pri-a-pus (pri ā/pas), n. 1. an ancient Greek god of male procreative power. 2. (L.c.) Prib/a lof (prib/a lof/), lof/), n. a group of islands in the Bering Sea, SW of Alaska, and belonging to the U.S. price (pris), n., v., priced, pric-ing. —n. 1. the sum or amount of money or its equivalent for which anything is bought, sold, or offered for sale. 2. a sum offered for the capture of a person alive or dead: to put a price on someone's head. 3. an amount of money for which a person will forsake principles or obligations: They claim that every politician has his price. 4. that which must be given, done, or undergone in order to obtain a thing. 5. Archaic. value or worth. —v.f. 6. to fix the price of 7. to ask or find out the price of. [1175–1225; ME pris(e) < OF < L pretium price, value, worth)

Price (pris), n. 1. (Edward) Reynolds, born 1933, U.S. novelist. 2. (Mary) Le-on-tyne (lē/an tēn/), born 1927, U.S. soprano.

price/earn/ings ra/tio, n. the current price of a share of common stock divided by earnings per share over a 12-month period, often used in stock evaluation. Abbr.: p/e [1960–65]

price/ fix/ing or price/-fix/ing, n. the establishing of prices at a determined level, either by a government or by mutual consent among producers or sellers of a commodity. [1945–50]

price/ in/dex, n. an index of the changes in the prices of goods and services, based on the prices of a previous period, with the base level usu. expressed as 100. [1885–90]

price/ ess (pris/lis), adj. 1. having a value beyond all price; invaluable; precious: a priceless artwork. 2. delightfully amusing or absurd: a priceless anecdote. [1905–10] — price/essness, n.

price/ point/, n. the price for which something is sold on the retail market, esp. in contrast to competitive prices.

price/ war/, n. intensive competition, esp. among retailers, in which prices are repeatedly cut in order to undersell competitors or force competitors out of business. [1925–30]

price/ tag/r, n. 1. a label or tag that shows the price of the item to which it is

being pricked. 4. a sharp pain or feeling of discomfort caused by or as if by being pricked; twinge. 5. a sharp point or part; prickle. 6. Vulgar Slang. a. Penus. b. a nasty, obnoxious, or contemptible person. 7. Obs. a pointed instrument or weapon. —v.t. 8. to pierce with a sharp point; puncture: 1 pricked my finger. 9. to affect with sharp pain, as from piercing. 10. to cause sharp mental pain to; sting, as with remorse: His conscience pricked him. 11. to urge on with or as if with a goad or spur. 12. to mark (a surface) with pricks or dots in tracing something. 13. to mark or trace by means of pricks or dots. 14. to cause to stand erect or point upward (usu. fol. by up): The dog pricked up its ears. 15. to lame (a horse) by driving a nail improperly into its hoof. 16. to transplant (a seedling) into a container that provides more room for growth (usu. fol. by out or off). —v.i. 17. to perform the action of piercing or puncturing something. 18. to have a sensation of being pricked. 19. to rise erect or point upward, as the ears of an animal (usu. fol. by up). 20. to spur or urge a horse on; ride rapidly. —diom. 21. prick up one's ears, to become very alert; listen attentively. [bef. 1000; (n.) ME prike, OE prica, price dot, point; (v.) ME priken, OE prician; c. D. LG prik point) —prick'er, n. prick-et (prik'it), n. 1. a sharp metal point on which to stick a candle. 2. a candlestick with one or more such points. 3. a buck in his second year. [1300–50; ME; see PRICK, -ET]

pre-sum/mit, adi., n. pre-sum'mit, dal., pre-sur'ger-y, adj., pre-sur'gi-cal, adj. pre-sur-round', v.t. pre-sur-vey, n. pre-sur-vey', v.t. pre-sweet'en, v.t. pre/symp-to-mat/ic, adj. pre-taste/, n., v.t., -tast-ed, pre/tech-no-log/i-cal, adi;; -ly, adv. pre-tel/e-vi/sion, adi, pre-tel/v, v, -told, -tell-ing, pre-tes/ti-fy', v, t, -fied, -fy-ing, pre-tes/ti-ed, adi, pre-tuck/et-ed, adi, pre-tuck/et-ed, adi, pre-train', v.t. pre/u·ni·ver/si·ty, adj.

pre-vac/ci-nate/, v.t., -nat-ed, pre-va/c-inate, p.c., moved, pre-val-u-artion, n. pre-val-u-artion, n. pre-val-u-e, n., p.t., -ued, -u-ing. pre-ver/bal, adj. pre-Vic-to-fri-an, adj. pre-val-u-in, n. p. pre•wis/it, n., v.

pre-wash', n., v.t.
pre-wean'ing, adj.
pre-worn', adj.
pre-wife', v.t.
pre-wire', v.t., -wired, -wir-ing.
pre-work', v.
pre-work', n., adj.
pre-wrap', v.t., -wrapped, -wrap•ping. pre•writ/ten, adj.

