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as noun **preconditioning**) prepare or condition (someone or something) to behave or react in a certain way under certain conditions. **2** bring into the desired state for use.

**preconize** or **preconise** /prɪˈkɒnɪz/ ▶ *v.* **1** proclaim or commend publicly. **2** (of the Pope) publicly approve the appointment of (a bishop).  
— ORIGIN ME: from med. L. *praecōnizare*, from L. *praeco*(n) 'herald'.

**preconscious** *Psychology* ▶ *adj.* of or associated with a part of the mind below the level of conscious awareness, from which memories and emotions that have not been repressed can be recalled. ▶ *n.* (one's/the **preconscious**) this part of the mind.

— DERIVATIVES **preconsciousness** *n.*

**precook** ▶ *v.* cook in advance.

**pericardium** /prɪˈkɑːrdɪəm/ ▶ *n.* **Anatomy** the region of the thorax immediately in front of or over the heart.  
— DERIVATIVES **pericardial** *adj.*

— ORIGIN C19: sing. of L. *praecordia* 'diaphragm, entrails'.  
**precursor** ▶ *n.* **1** a person or thing that comes before another of the same kind. **2** a substance from which another is formed, especially by metabolic reaction.  
— DERIVATIVES **precursor** *adj.*

— ORIGIN ME: from L. *praecursor*, from *praecurs* 'preceded', from *praecurrere*, from *prae* 'beforehand' + *currere* 'to run'.

**predacious** /prɪˈdeɪʃəs/ (also **predaceous**) ▶ *adj.* (of an animal) predatory.  
— DERIVATIVES **predacity** *n.*

— ORIGIN C18: from L. *praeda* 'booty' + *-acious*.

**predate** ▶ *v.* exist or occur at a date earlier than.

**predation** /prɪˈdeɪʃ(ə)n/ ▶ *n.* **1** **Zoology** the preying of one animal on others. **2** (usu. **predations**) an act of attacking or plundering.  
— DERIVATIVES **predate** *v.*

— ORIGIN C15 (in the L. sense): from L. *praedatio*(n) 'taking of booty', from *praedari* 'seize as plunder', from *praeda* 'booty'.

**predator** /ˈpreɪdətə/ ▶ *n.* **1** an animal that preys on others. **2** a person who exploits others. **3** a company that tries to take over another.

**predatory** /ˈpreɪdət(ə)rɪ/ ▶ *adj.* **1** (of an animal) preying naturally on others. **2** seeking to exploit others.  
— DERIVATIVES **predatorily** *adv.* **predatoriness** *n.*

**predatory pricing** ▶ *n.* the pricing of goods or services at such a low level that other firms cannot compete and are forced to leave the market.

**predawn** ▶ *adj.* relating to or taking place before dawn.

**predecease** *Informal* ▶ *v.* die before (another person). ▶ *n.* a death preceding that of another person.

**predecessor** ▶ *n.* **1** a person who held a job or office before the current holder. **2** a thing that has been followed or replaced by another.

— ORIGIN ME: from late L. *praedecessor*, from L. *prae* 'beforehand' + *decessor* 'retiring officer'.

**predefined** ▶ *adj.* defined, limited, or established in advance.

**predella** /prɪˈdɛlə/ ▶ *n.* a step or platform on which an altar is placed. **2** a raised shelf above an altar. **3** a painting or sculpture on this, typically forming an appendage to an altarpiece.  
— ORIGIN C19: from Ital. lit. 'stool'.

**predestinarian** /prɪˈdestɪn(ə)rɪən/ ▶ *n.* a person who believes in the doctrine of predestination.  
▶ *adj.* upholding or relating to the doctrine of predestination.

**predestinate** ▶ *v.* /prɪˈdestɪneɪt/ predestine.  
▶ *adj.* /prɪˈdestɪnət/ predestined.

— ORIGIN ME: from eccles. L. *praedestinat*, *praedestinare* 'make firm beforehand', from *prae* 'in advance' +

**predetermine** ▶ *v.* establish or decide in advance.

— DERIVATIVES **predeterminable** *adj.* **predetermine** *adj.* **predetermination** *n.* **predetermined** *adj.*

**predeterminer** ▶ *n.* **Grammar** a word or phrase that occurs before a determiner, typically quantifying the noun phrase, for example *both* or *a lot of*.

**predial** /prɪˈdiəl/ ▶ *adj.* **1** **archaic** agrarian. **2** **historical** (of a title) consisting of agricultural produce. **3** **historical** relating to or denoting a slave or tenant attached to farms or the land. ▶ *n.* **historical** a predial slave.  
— ORIGIN ME: from med. L. *praedialis*, from L. *praedium* 'farm'.

**predicable** /ˈprɛdɪkəb(ə)l/ ▶ *adj.* that may be predicated or affirmed. ▶ *n.* **1** a thing that is predicable. **2** (in Aristotelian logic) each of the classes to which predicates belong: genus, species, difference, property, and accident.

— DERIVATIVES **predicability** *n.*

**predicament** /prɪˈdɪkəmənt/ ▶ *n.* **1** a difficult situation. **2** **Philosophy** each of the ten categories in Aristotelian logic.

— ORIGIN ME (orig. in sense 'category', later 'state of being', hence 'difficult situation'): from late L. *praedicamentum* 'something predicated' (rendering Gk *katēgoria* 'category'), from L. *praedicare* (see **PRADICATE**).

**predicant** /ˈprɛdɪk(ə)nt/ *archaic* ▶ *adj.* (especially of the religious order of the Dominicans) characterized by preaching. ▶ *n.* a preacher, especially a Dominican friar.  
— ORIGIN C16: from L. *praedican* 'declaring', from *praedicare*, in eccles. L. meaning 'preach'.

**predicate** ▶ *n.* /ˈprɛdɪkət/ **1** **Grammar** the part of a sentence or clause containing a verb and stating something about the subject (e.g. *went home* in *John went home*). **2** **Logic** something which is affirmed or denied concerning an argument of a proposition. ▶ *v.* /ˈprɛdɪkət/ **1** **Grammar**

**Logic** state, affirm, or assert (something) about the subject of a sentence or an argument of a proposition. **2** **Logic** declare or assert as true or existing. **3** (**predicate something on**) found or base something on.

— DERIVATIVES **predication** *n.*

— ORIGIN ME: from L. *praedicatum* 'something declared', neut. of *praedicatus*, from *praedicare*, from *prae* 'beforehand' + *dicare* 'make known'.

**predicate calculus** ▶ *n.* the branch of symbolic logic concerned with propositions containing predicates, names, and quantifiers.

**predicative** /prɪˈdɪkətɪv/ ▶ *adj.* **1** **Grammar** (of an adjective or other modifier) forming or contained in the predicate, as *old* in *the dog is old* (but not in *the old dog*). Contrasted with **ATTRIBUTIVE**. **2** denoting a use of the verb *to be* to assert something about the subject. **3** **Logic** acting as a predicate.

— DERIVATIVES **predicatively** *adv.*

**predict** ▶ *v.* state that (a specified event) will happen in the future.

— DERIVATIVES **predictive** *adj.* **predictively** *adv.* **predictor** *n.*

— ORIGIN C17: from L. *praedict*, *praedicere* 'make known beforehand, declare', from *prae* 'beforehand' + *dicere* 'say'.

**predictable** ▶ *adj.* able to be predicted. **2** **derogatory** always behaving or occurring in the way expected.

— DERIVATIVES **predictability** *n.* **predictably** *adv.*

**prediction** ▶ *n.* a thing predicted; a forecast. **3** the action of predicting.

**predigest** ▶ *v.* **1** treat (food) so as to make it more easily digestible when eaten. **2** simplify (information) so that it is easier to absorb.  
— DERIVATIVES **predigestion** *n.*

**predikant** /ˈprɛdɪkənt, ˈprɪdɪkənt/ ▶ *n.* **5** Africa a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church.