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ent time or the time of speaking 5 *obs*: ATTENTIVE 6 *archaic*: INSTANT, IMMEDIATE — **present-ness** *n*  
**present** \ˈpre-znt\ *n* (14c) 1 *a obs*: present occasion or affair **b pl**: the present words or statements; *specif*: the legal instrument or other writing in which these words are used 2 **a**: the present tense of a language **b**: a verb form in the present tense 3: the present time — **at present**: at or during this time: NOW  
**present-able** \ˈpre-znt-ə-bəl\ *adj* (ca. 1626) 1: capable of being presented 2: being in condition to be seen or inspected esp. by the critical — **present-ability** \-znt-ə-bi-lə-ti\ *n* — **present-able-ness** \-znt-ə-bəl-nəs\ *n* — **present-ably** \-bəl-əd\ *adv*  
**present arms** \ˈpre-znt-əm\ *n* [fr. the command *present arms!*] (ca. 1884) 1: a position in the manual of arms in which the rifle is held vertically in front of the body 2: a command to assume the position of present arms or to give a hand salute  
**presen-tation** \ˈpre-zen-tā-shən, -pre-znt-, -pre-znt-\ *n* (15c) 1 **a**: the act of presenting **b**: the act, power, or privilege esp. of a patron of applying to the bishop or ordinary for instituting someone into a benefice 2: something presented: as **a**: a symbol or image that represents something **b**: something offered or given: GIFT **c**: something set forth for the attention of the mind **d**: a descriptive or persuasive account (as by a salesman of a product) 3: the position in which the fetus lies in the uterus in labor with respect to the mouth of the uterus 4: an immediate object of perception, cognition, or memory 5 *often cap*: a church feast on November 21 celebrating the presentation of the Virgin Mary in the temple 6: the method by which radio, navigation, or radar information is given to the operator (as the pilot of an airplane) — **presen-tation-al** \-shən-əl, -shə-nəl\ *adj*  
**presen-ta-tive** \ˈpre-znt-ə-tiv, -pre-znt-, -tā-\ *adj* (ca. 1842): known, knowing, or capable of being known directly rather than through cogitation  
**present-day** \ˈpre-znt-ɪ-də\ *adj* (1887): now existing or occurring  
**presen-tee** \ˈpre-znt-ɪ-ti, -pre-znt-\ *n* (15c): one who is presented or to whom something is presented  
**presen-tient** \ˈpre-sen(t)-sh(ə)-ənt, -pre-: -pri-zent(t)-\ *adj* [L *praesentient-*, *praesentis*, *pp.* of *praesentire*] (1814): having a presentiment  
**presen-ti-ment** \ˈpre-znt-ə-mənt\ *n* [F *presentiment*, fr. MF, fr. *presentire* to have a presentiment, fr. L *praesentire* to feel beforehand, fr. *prae-* + *sentire* to feel — more at *SENSE*] (1714): a feeling that something will or is about to happen: PREMONITION — **presen-ti-men-tal** \-znt-ə-mən-təl\ *adj*  
**present-ism** \ˈpre-znt-ɪ-zəm\ *n* [*present*] (1923): an outlook dominated by present-day attitudes and experiences — **present-ist** \-znt-ɪst\ *adj*  
**pres-ent-ly** \ˈpre-znt-lē\ *adv* (14c) 1 *a archaic*: at once **b**: before long: without undue delay 2: at the present time: NOW  
**usage** Both senses 1b and 2 are flourishing in current English, but many commentators have objected to sense 2. Since this sense has been in continuous use since the 15th century, it is not clear why it is objectionable. Perhaps a note in the *Oxford English Dictionary* (1909) that the sense has been obsolete since the 17th century in literary English is to blame, but the note goes on to observe that the sense is in regular use in most English dialects. The last citation in that dictionary is from a 1901 Leeds newspaper, written in Standard English. Sense 2 is most common in contexts relating to business and politics (the fastest-rising welfare cost is Medicaid, *presently* paid by the states and cities — William Safire)  
**pres-ent-ment** \ˈpre-znt-mənt\ *n* (14c) 1: the act of presenting to an authority a formal statement of a matter to be dealt with; *specif*: the notice taken or statement made by a grand jury of an offense from their own knowledge without a bill of indictment laid before them 2: the act of offering at the proper time and place a document (as a bill of exchange) that calls for acceptance or payment by another 3 **a**: the act of presenting to view or consciousness **b**: something set forth, presented, or exhibited **c**: the aspect in which something is presented  
**present participle** *n* (1864): a participle that typically expresses present action in relation to the time expressed by the finite verb in its clause and that in English is formed with the suffix *-ing* and is used in the formation of the progressive tenses  
**present perfect** *adj* (1887): of, relating to, or constituting a verb tense that is formed in English with *have* and that expresses action or state completed at the time of speaking — **present perfect** *n*  
**present tense** *n* (14c): the tense of a verb that expresses action or state in the present time and is used of what occurs or is true at the time of speaking and of what is habitual or characteristic or is always or necessarily true, that is sometimes used to refer to action in the past, and that is sometimes used for future events  
**present value** *n* (1831): the sum of money which if invested now at a given rate of compound interest will accumulate exactly to a specified amount at a specified future date  
**pres-er-va-tion-ist** \ˈpre-zər-ˈvā-sh(ə)-nɪst\ *n* (1927): one who advocates preservation (as of a biological species or a historical landmark)  
**pres-er-va-tive** \ˈpre-zər-ˈvā-tiv\ *adj* (14c): having the power of preserving  
**preservative** *n* (15c): something that preserves or has the power of preserving; *specif*: an additive used to protect against decay, discoloration, or spoilage  
**pre-serve** \ˈpri-zərv\ *vb* **pre-served**; **pre-serv-ing** [ME, fr. MF *pre-servere*, fr. ML *praeservare*, fr. LL, to observe beforehand, fr. L *prae-* + *servare* to keep, guard, observe — more at *CONSERVE*] *vt* (14c) 1: to keep safe from injury, harm, or destruction: PROTECT 2 **a**: to keep alive, intact, or free from decay **b**: MAINTAIN 3 **a**: to keep or save from decomposition **b**: to can, pickle, or similarly prepare for future use 4: to keep up and reserve for personal or special use ~ *vi* 1: to make preserves 2: to raise and protect game for purposes of sport 3: to be able to be preserved (as by canning) — **pre-serv-abil-i-ty** \-zər-ˈbi-lə-ti\ *n* — **pre-serv-able** \-zər-ˈvā-bəl\ *adj* — **pre-serv-ation** \ˈpre-zər-ˈvā-shən\ *n* — **pre-serv-er** \ˈpri-zər-vər\ *n*  
**preserve** *n* (1600) 1: fruit canned or made into jams or jellies or cooked whole or in large pieces in a syrup so as to keep its shape — often used in pl. 2: an area restricted for the protection and preservation of natural resources (as animals or trees); *esp*: one used primarily for regulated hunting or fishing 3: something regarded as reserved for certain persons

**pre-shrink** \(\,pre-ˈshrɪŋk, esp Southern -ˈsrɪŋk\ *vt* **-shrank** \-ˈshrɪŋk, -ˈsrɪŋk\; **-shrunk** \-ˈshrɪŋk, -ˈsrɪŋk\ (1926): to shrink (as a fabric) before making into a garment so that it will not shrink much when washed  
**pre-side** \ˈpri-ˈzɪd\ *vi* **pre-sid-ed**; **pre-sid-ing** [L *praesidere* to guard, preside over, fr. *prae-* + *sedere* to sit — more at *SIT*] (1608) 1: to exercise guidance, direction, or control 2 **a**: to occupy the place of authority: act as president, chairman, or moderator **b**: to occupy a position similar to that of a president or chairman 3: to occupy a position of featured instrumental performer — *usu.* used with *at* (*presided at the organ*) — **pre-sider** *n*  
**pres-i-den-cy** \ˈpre-zə-dən(t)-sē, -ˈprez-dən(t)- also ˈpre-zə-dən(t)-sē\ *n*, *pl* **-cies** (1591) 1 **a**: the office of president **b** (1): the office of president of the U.S. (2): the American governmental institution comprising the office of president and various associated administrative and policy-making agencies 2: the term during which a president holds office 3: the action or function of one that presides: SUPERINTENDENCE 4: a Mormon executive council of the church or a stake consisting of a president and two counselors  
**pres-i-dent** \ˈpre-zə-dənt, -ˈprez-dənt, -ˈpre-zə-dənt in rapid speech ˈpre-znt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *praesident-*, *praesidens*, fr. *pp.* of *praesidere*] (14c) 1: an official chosen to preside over a meeting or assembly 2: an appointed governor of a subordinate political unit 3: the chief officer of an organization (as a corporation or institution) *usu.* entrusted with the direction and administration of its policies 4: the presiding officer of a governmental body 5 **a**: an elected official serving as both chief of state and chief political executive in a republic having a presidential government **b**: an elected official having the position of chief of state but *usu.* only minimal political powers in a republic having a parliamentary government — **pres-i-den-tial** \-zə-dən(t)-shəl, -ˈprez-dən(t)-\ *adj* — **pres-i-den-tial-ly** \-sh(ə)-lē\ *adv*  
**pres-i-dent-ship** \ˈpre-zə-dənt-ˌʃɪp, -ˈprez-dənt-, -ˈpre-zə-dənt-\ *n*  
**presidential government** *n* (1902): a system of government in which the president is constitutionally independent of the legislature  
**Presidents' Day** *n* (1952): WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY 2  
**pres-i-den-tial** \ˈpri-si-dē-əl, -ˈprez-ɪ-dē-əl\ *adj* [LL *praesidialis*, fr. L *praesidium* garrison, fr. *praesid-*, *praesides* guard, governor, fr. *praesidere*] (1611) 1 [F *présidial*, fr. MF, alter. of *présidial*, fr. LL *praesidialis* of a provincial governor, fr. L *praesid-*, *praesides*]: PROVINCIAL 1 2: of, having, or constituting a garrison 3: of or relating to a president: PRESIDENTIAL  
**pres-i-d-i-ary** \-dē-er-ē-əl\ *adj* (1599): PRESIDENTIAL  
**pres-i-dio** \ˈpri-sē-dē-ō, -ˈsi-, -ˈze-, -ˈzi-\ *n*, *pl* **-di-os** [Sp, fr. L *praesidium*] (1763): a garrisoned place; *esp*: a military post or fortified settlement in areas currently or orig. under Spanish control  
**pres-i-d-i-um** \ˈpri-si-dē-əm, -ˈprez-ɪ-dē-əm, -ˈprez-ɪ-dē-əl or -i-ums [Russ *prezidium*, fr. L *praesidium* garrison] (1920) 1: a permanent executive committee selected esp. in Communist countries to act for a larger body 2: a nongovernmental executive committee  
**pre-sig-ni-fy** \(\,pre-ˈsɪg-ni-faɪ\ *vt* [L *praesignificare*, fr. *prae-* + *significare* to signify] (1586): to intimate or signify beforehand: PRESAGE  
**pre-soak** \(\,pre-ˈsɔk\ *vt* (1919): to soak beforehand  
**pre-soak** \ˈpre-sɔk\ *n* (1919) 1: an instance of presoaking 2: a preparation used in presoaking clothes  
**pre-Soc-rat-ic** \ˈpre-sə-ˈkra-tik, -sə-\ *adj* (1871): of or relating to Greek philosophers before Socrates — **pre-Socratic** *n*  
**pre-sort** \(\,pre-ˈsɔrt\ *vt* (1951): to sort (outgoing mail) by zip code *usu.* before delivery to a post office  
**press** \ˈpres\ *n* [ME *presse*, fr. OF, fr. *presser* to press] (13c) 1 **a**: a crowd or crowded condition: THROGG **b**: a thronging or crowding forward or together 2 **a**: an apparatus or machine by which a substance is cut or shaped, an impression of a body is taken, a material is compressed, pressure is applied to a body, liquid is expressed, or a cutting tool is fed into the work by pressure **b**: a building containing presses or a business using presses 3: CLOSET, CUPBOARD 4 **a**: an action of pressing or pushing: PRESSURE **b**: an aggressive pressuring defense employed in basketball often over the entire court area 5: the properly smoothed and creased condition of a freshly pressed garment (out of ~) 6 **a**: PRINTING PRESS **b**: the act or the process of printing **c**: a printing or publishing establishment 7 **a**: the gathering and publishing or broadcasting of news: JOURNALISM **b**: newspapers, periodicals, and often radio and television news broadcasting **c**: news reporters, publishers, and broadcasters **d**: comment or notice in newspapers and periodicals (is getting a good ~) 8: any of various pressure devices (as one for keeping sporting gear from warping when not in use) 9: a lift in weight lifting in which the weight is raised to shoulder height and then smoothly extended overhead without assist from the legs — compare CLEAN AND JERK, SNATCH  
**press** *vb* [ME, fr. MF *presser*, fr. L *pressare*, freq. of *premere* to press; prob. akin to Russ *napret* to press] *vt* (14c) 1: to act upon through steady pushing or thrusting force exerted in contact: SQUEEZE 2 **a**: ASSAIL HARASS **b**: AFFLICT, OPPRESS 3 **a**: to squeeze out the juice or contents of **b**: to squeeze with apparatus or instruments to a desired density, smoothness, or shape 4 **a**: to exert influence on: CON- STRAIN **b**: to try hard to persuade: BESEECH, ENTREAT 5: to move by means of pressure 6 **a**: to lay stress or emphasis on **b**: to insist on or request urgently 7: to follow through (a course of action) 8: to clasp in affection or courtesy 9: to make (a phonograph record) from a matrix ~ *vi* 1: to crowd closely: MASS 2: to force or push one's way 3: to seek urgently: CONTEND 4: to require haste or speed in action 5: to exert pressure 6: to take or hold a press 7: to employ a press in basketball — **press-er** *n* — **press the flesh**: to greet and shake hands with people esp. while campaigning for political office  
**press** *vb* [alter. of *obs. prest* to enlist by giving pay in advance] *vt* (1578) 1: to force into service esp. in an army or navy: IMPRESS 2 **a**: to take by authority esp. for public use: COMMANDER **b**: to take and force into any *usu.* emergency service ~ *vi*: to impress men as soldiers or sailors  
**press** *n* (1599) 1: impressment into service esp. in a navy 2 *obs*: a warrant for impressing recruits  
**press agent** *n* [*press*] (1883): an agent employed to establish and maintain good public relations through publicity — **press-agent** *vb* — **press-agent-ry** \-ˈā-jən-trē\ *n*

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