

Webster's New College Dictionary

THIRD EDITION



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proc-tor (prōk'tər) *n.* [ME, university officer < *procurator*, procurator.] A supervisor, esp. of an examination or dormitory in a school. —*vt.* -tored, -tor-ing, -tors To supervise (an examination). —**proc-to'ri-al** (-tōr'ē-əl) *adj.* —**proc'tor-ship** *n.*

proc-to-scope (prōk'tə-skōp') *n.* [Gk. *prōktos*, anus + -SCOPE.] An instrument for dilating and examining the rectum. —**proc'to-scop'ic** (-skōp'ik) *adj.* —**proc'tos'co-py** (-tōs'kə-pē) *n.*

pro-cum-bent (prō-kūm'bənt) *adj.* [Lat. *procumbens*, *procumbent*, *pr.* part. of *procumbere*, to bend down : *pro-*, forward + *cumbere*, to lie down.] 1. Bot. Trailing on the ground <a *procumbent vine*> 2. Lying face down : PRONE.

proc-u-ra-tor (prōk'yə-rā'tər) *n.* [ME *procurator* < OFr. < Lat. *procurator* < *procurare*, to take care of. —see PROCURE.] 1. An agent with power of attorney. 2. A Roman official acting as a financial agent of the emperor or as an administrator of a minor province. —**proc'u-ra-to'ri-al** (-yər-ə-tōr'ē-əl) *adj.*

pro-cure (prō-kyūr', prə-) *v.* -cured, -cur-ing, -cures [ME *procurer* < OFr. *procurer* < Lat. *procurare*, to manage : *pro-*, for + *curare*, to care for.] —*vt.* 1. To obtain : acquire. 2. To bring about : EFFECT <procure a settlement of a strike> 3. To obtain for another (a person) for sexual intercourse. —*vi.* To work as a procurer. —**pro-cur'a-ble** *adj.* —**pro-cur'ance**, **pro-cure'ment** *n.*

pro-cur-er (prō-kyūr'ər, prə-) *n.* 1. One who procures <a *procurer* of new executive talent> 2. PANDER 1.

pro-cur-ess (prō-kyūr'is, prə-) *n.* A woman who procures.

Pro-cy-on (prō'sē-ōn') *n.* [Lat. < Gk. *Prokyon* : *pro-*, before + *kyon*, dog.] A double star in the constellation Canis Minor.

prod (prōd) *vt.* **prod-ded**, **prod-ding**, **prods** [Orig. unknown.] 1. To poke or jab, as with a pointed instrument. 2. To rouse to action : GOAD. —*n.* 1. Something for prodding : GOAD. 2. An incitement : stimulus. —**prod'der** *n.*

prod-i-gal (prōd'i-gəl) *adj.* [Lat. *prodigus* < *prodigere*, to squander : *prod-*, before (var. of *pro-*) + *agere*, to drive.] 1. Recklessly wasteful : EXTRAVAGANT. 2a. Profuse in giving. b. Exceedingly abundant. 3. Profuse : lavish <prodigal praise> —*n.* One inclined to luxury or extravagance. —**prod'i-gal-ly** *adv.*

prod-i-gal-i-ty (prōd'i-gāl'i-tē) *n., pl. -ties* 1. Extravagant wastefulness. 2. Profuse generosity. 3. Extreme abundance.

pro-di-gious (prə-dij'əs) *adj.* [Lat. *prodigiosus* < *prodigium*, omen.] 1. Awesomely great in size, force, or extent : ENORMOUS. 2. Extraordinary : marvelous. 3. Ominous : portentous. —**pro-di'gious-ly** *adv.* —**pro-di'gious-ness** *n.*

prod-i-gy (prōd'ə-jē) *n., pl. -gies* [Lat. *prodigium*, omen.] 1. One with remarkable talents or powers <a child prodigy> 2. An act or event so remarkable or rare as to inspire wonder. 3. An omen.

pro-drome (prō-drōm') *n., pl. -dromes* or **-dro-ma-ta** (-drō'mə-tə) [Fr. < Gk. *prodromos*, precursor : *pro-*, forward + *dromos*, running.] A symptom of the onset of a disease. —**pro-dro'mal** (-drō'məl), **pro-drom'ic** (-drōm'ik) *adj.*

pro-duce (prə-dōōs', -dyōōs', prō-) *v.* -duced, -duc-ing, -duc-es [Lat. *producere* : *pro-*, forward + *ducere*, to lead.] —*vt.* 1. To bring forth : YIELD. 2. To create by physical or mental effort. 3. To manufacture. 4. To give rise to. 5. To bring forward : EXHIBIT. 6. To sponsor and present to the public <produce a musical revue> 7. To extend (an area or volume) or lengthen (a line). —*vi.* To make or yield the customary product or products. —*n.* (prōd'ōōs, prō'dōōs) A product, esp. farm products as a whole. —**pro-duc'i-ble** *adj.*

pro-duc-er (prə-dōō'sər, -dyōō'-, prō-) *n.* 1. One that produces, esp. one that manufactures or grows goods or services to sell. 2. One who finances and supervises the production of public entertainment, as a play. 3. A furnace for manufacturing producer gas. 4. *Ecol.* An autotrophic organism in an ecosystem.

producer gas *n.* A gas used as fuel, generated by passing air with steam over burning coke or coal to yield a combustible mixture of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen.

producer goods or **producers' goods** *pl.n.* Goods, as raw materials or tools, for making consumer goods.

producer price index *n.* A comprehensive index of wholesale price changes, often viewed as an indicator of future retail price changes.

prod-uct (prōd'əkt) *n.* [Lat. *productum* < *p.* part. of *producere*, to bring forth. —see PRODUCE.] 1. Something produced by human or mechanical effort or by a natural process. 2. A direct result : CONSEQUENCE. 3. *Chem.* A substance produced by a chemical change. 4. *Math.* a. The result arrived at by performing multiplication. b. A scalar product. c. A vector product.

pro-duc-tion (prə-dük'shən, prō-) *n.* 1. An act or process of producing. 2. Creation of value or wealth by producing goods and services. 3. Something produced : PRODUCT. 4. The total output, as of a commodity <increased production at the factory> 5a. A work of art or literature. b. A work produced for the stage, screen, television, or radio. c. A staging or presentation of a theatrical work. —**pro-duc'tion-al** *adj.*

pro-duc-tive (prə-dük'tiv, prō-) *adj.* 1. Producing or able to produce. 2. Producing abundantly : FERTILE. 3. Yielding useful or favorable results : CONSTRUCTIVE <productive marketing ideas> 4. Of or in-

involved in the creation of goods and services to produce wealth or value. 5. Resulting in <investigations productive of discoveries> —**pro-duc'tive-ly** *adv.* —**pro-duc'tiv'i-ty** (prō'dük-tiv'i-tē, prōd'ək-), **pro-duc'tive-ness** *n.*

pro-em (prō'ēm') *n.* [ME *probeme* < OFr. < Lat. *prooemium* < Gk. *prooimion*, prelude : *pro-*, before + *oimē*, song.] A short introduction : PREFACE. —**pro-e'mi-al** (prō-ē'mē-əl, -ēm'ē-) *adj.*

pro-en-zyme (prō-ēn'zīm') *n.* Zymogen.

pro-es-trus (prō-ēs'trəs) *n.* The period of preparation for pregnancy immediately preceding estrus in female mammals.

prof (prōf) *n.* Informal. A professor.

pro-fam-i-ly (prō-fām'ə-lē, -fām'lē) *n.* Favoring or supporting values held to promote traditional family life, typically values identified with social conservatism.

pro-fane (prō-fān', prə-) *adj.* [ME *profhane* < OFr. < Lat. *profanus* : *pro-*, before + *fanum*, temple.] 1. Showing irreverence or contempt toward God or sacred things : BLASPHEMOUS. 2. Nonreligious in subject matter, form, or use. 3. Not initiated into the mysteries of ritual. 4. Coarse : vulgar. —*vt.* -faned, -fan-ing, -fanes 1. To treat irreverently. 2. To put to an improper, unworthy, or degrading use : ABUSE. —**pro-fa-na'tion** (prōf'ə-nā'shən) *n.* —**pro-fan'a-to'ry** (prō-fān'ə-tōr'ē, prə-) *adj.* —**pro-fane'ly** *adv.* —**pro-fane'ness** *n.* —**pro-fan'er** *n.* ♦ **synonyms**: PROFANE, LAY, SECULAR, TEMPORAL, WORLDLY *adj.* **core meaning** : not religious in subject matter, form, or use <sacred and profane music> **antonym**: SACRED

pro-fan-i-ty (prō-fān'i-tē, prə-) *n., pl. -ties* 1. The quality or state of being profane. 2a. Abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language. b. Use of abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language.

pro-fess (prə-fēs', prō-) *v.* -fessed, -fess-ing, -fess-es [Lat. *profiteri*, *profess-* : *pro-*, forth + *fateri*, to acknowledge.] —*vt.* 1. To affirm openly : DECLARE <professed my ignorance> 2. To make a pretense of <... professed to despise everything that had happened since 1850> —Louis Auchincloss> 3. To claim skill in or knowledge of <profess pharmacy> 4. To teach (a subject) as a professor. 5. To affirm belief in <profess Hinduism> 6. To receive into a religious order. —*vi.* 1. To make an open affirmation. 2. To take the vows of a religious order. —**pro-fess'ed-ly** (-fēs'id-lē) *adv.*

pro-fes-sion (prə-fesh'ən) *n.* [ME, vow made on entering a religious order < OFr. < Lat. *professio*, declaration < *profiteri*, to declare. —see PROFESS.] 1a. A career or occupation. b. An occupation such as law that requires considerable training and specialized study. 2. The body of qualified persons of a specific occupation or field. 3. An act or instance of professing : DECLARATION. 4. Acknowledgment of religious faith.

pro-fes-sion-al (prə-fesh'ə-nəl) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, engaged in, or appropriate for a profession. 2. Engaged in a specific activity as a means of livelihood : CAREER <a professional musician> 3. Performed by persons receiving pay <professional soccer> 4a. Possessing great skill or experience in a field or activity. b. Informal. Behaving in such a way as to appear professional <a professional grouch> —*n.* 1. One following a profession. 2. One who makes a living as an athlete. 3. One with assured competence in a field. —**pro-fes'sion-al-ly** *adv.*

pro-fes-sion-al-ism (prə-fesh'ə-nə-liz'əm) *n.* 1. Professional status, methods, character, or standards. 2. Use of professional players in organized athletics.

pro-fes-sion-al-ize (prə-fesh'ə-nə-liz') *vt.* -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es To make professional. —**pro-fes'sion-al-i-za'tion** *n.*

pro-fes-sor (prə-fēs'ər) *n.* [ME *professour* < Lat. *professor* < *profiteri*, to profess.] 1a. A teacher of the highest rank in an institution of higher learning. b. A teacher : instructor. 2. One who professes. —**pro-fes-so'ri-al** (prō'fi-sōr'ē-əl, prōf'i-) *adj.* —**pro-fes-so'ri-al-ly** *adv.* —**pro-fes'sor-ship** *n.*

pro-fes-so-ri-ate or **pro-fes-so-ri-at** (prō'fi-sōr'ē-ət, -ät', prōf'i-) *n.* 1. The office or rank of a professor. 2. University and college professors as a group.

prof-fer (prōf'ər) *vt.* -fered, -fer-ing, -fers [ME *profren* < OFr. *porffrir* : *por-*, forth (< Lat. *pro-*) + *offrir*, to offer < Lat. *offerre*. —see OFFER.] To offer : tender. —**prof'fer** *n.* —**prof'fer-er** *n.*

pro-fi-cient (prə-fish'ənt) *adj.* [Lat. *proficiens*, *proficient-*, *pr.* part. of *proficere*, to advance. —see PROFIT.] Performing in a given art, skill, or branch of learning with correctness and facility. —*n.* An expert. —**pro-fi'cien-cy** (prə-fish'ən-sē) *n.* —**pro-fi'cient-ly** *adv.*

pro-file (prō'fil') *n.* [Obs. Ital. *profilo* < *profilare*, to draw in outline : *pro-*, forward (< Lat.) + *filare*, to draw a line < LLat., to spin < Lat. *filum*, thread.)] 1a. A side view of an object or structure, esp. of a human head. b. A representation of an object or structure seen from the side. 2. An outline of an object. 3. A biographical essay presenting the subject's most remarkable characteristics and accomplishments. 4. A set of characteristics that identify or are thought to identify a particular type of person <a profile of the thief> 5. A graph or table representing numerically the extent to which a person or thing shows various tested features <a corporation profile> —*vt.* -filed, -fil-ing, -files To draw or produce a profile of.

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