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provider

repulsed. 2 involving divine foresight or intervention: God's providential care for each of us. —**prov-i-den-tial-ly** adv.

pro-vid-er /prə'vīdər/ ▶ n. a person or thing that provides something: a leading provider of personal financial services. ■ a breadwinner.

pro-vid-ing /prə'vīdɪŋ/ ▶ conj. on the condition or understanding that: we can win the championship, providing we avoid bad injuries.

pro-vince /prə'vɪns/ ▶ n. 1 a principal administrative division of certain countries or empires: Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province. ■ (the provinces) the whole of a country outside the capital, esp. when regarded as lacking in sophistication or culture. ■ an area of the world with respect to its flora, fauna, or physical characteristics: the inaccessibility of underwater igneous provinces. 2 (one's province) an area of special knowledge, interest, or responsibility.

pro-vin-cial /prə'vɪnʃəl/ ▶ adj. 1 of or concerning a province of a country or empire. ■ of or pertaining to a style of architecture or furniture in fashion in the provinces of various European countries: French Provincial furnishing. 2 of or concerning the regions outside the capital city of a country. ■ unsophisticated or narrow-minded, esp. when considered as typical of such regions.

▶ n. 1 an inhabitant of a province of a country or empire. 2 an inhabitant of the regions outside the capital city of a country, esp. when regarded as unsophisticated or narrow-minded. —**pro-vin-cial-ity** /prə'vɪnʃə'æləti/ n. —**pro-vin-cial-i-za-tion** /prə'vɪnʃə'ælə'zāʃən/ n. —**pro-vin-cial-ly** adv.

pro-vin-cial-ism /prə'vɪnʃə'lɪzəm/ ▶ n. 1 the way of life or mode of thought characteristic of the regions outside the capital city of a country, esp. when regarded as unsophisticated or narrow-minded. ■ narrow-mindedness, insularity, or lack of sophistication. 2 concern for one's own area or region at the expense of national or supranational unity. 3 a word or phrase peculiar to a local area. 4 the degree to which plant or animal communities are restricted to particular areas. —**pro-vin-cial-ist** n. & adj.

pro-ving ground ▶ n. an environment that serves to demonstrate whether something, such as a theory or product, really works. ■ a military facility for the testing of materiel and equipment.

pro-vi-sion /prə'vɪʒən/ ▶ n. 1 the action of providing or supplying something for use. ■ (provision for/against) financial or other arrangements for future eventualities or requirements: farmers have been slow to make provision for their retirement. ■ an amount set aside out of profits in the accounts of an organization for a known liability, esp. a bad debt or the diminution in value of an asset. 2 an amount or thing supplied or provided: low levels of social provision. ■ (provisions) supplies of food, drink, or equipment, esp. for a journey. 3 a condition or requirement in a legal document: a key provision in civil rights law. 4 hist. Christian Church an appointment to a benefice, esp. directly by the pope rather than by the patron, and originally before it became vacant.

▶ v. 1 [tr.] supply with food, drink, or equipment, esp. for a journey. 2 [intr.] set aside an amount in an organization's accounts for a known liability: financial institutions have to provision against loan losses. —**pro-vi-sion-er** n.

pro-vi-sion-al /prə'vɪʒənəl/ ▶ adj. 1 arranged or existing for the present, possibly to be changed later: a provisional government. ■ (of a postage stamp) put into circulation temporarily, usually owing to the unavailability of the definitive issue. 2 (Provisional) of or relating to the unofficial wings of the Irish Republican Army and Sinn Féin established in 1969 and advocating terrorism.

▶ n. 1 a provisional postage stamp. 2 (Provisional) a member of the Provisional wings of the Irish Republican Army or Sinn Féin. —**pro-vi-sion-al-ity** /prə'vɪʒənəl'æləti/ n. —**pro-vi-sion-al-ly** /-zənəl-ē/ adv.

pro-vi-so /prə'vɪzə/ ▶ n. (pl. -sos) a condition attached to an agreement: he left his unborn grandchild a trust fund with the proviso that he be named after the old man.

pro-vi-so-ry /prə'vɪzəri/ ▶ adj. 1 rare subject to a proviso; conditional. 2 another term for PROVISIONAL (sense 1).

prov-o-ca-tion /prə've'kəʃən/ ▶ n. 1 action or speech that makes someone annoyed or angry, esp. deliberately: you should remain calm and not respond to provocation. 2 Med. testing to elicit a particular response or reflex.

pro-voc-a-tive /prə'vəkətɪv/ ▶ adj. causing annoyance, anger, or another strong reaction, esp. deliberately. ■ arousing sexual desire or interest, esp. deliberately. —**pro-voc-a-tive-ly** adv. —**pro-voc-a-tive-ness** n.

pro-voke /prə'vök/ ▶ v. [tr.] stimulate or give rise to (a reaction or emotion, typically a strong or unwelcome one) in someone: [as adj., in comb.] (-provoking) anxiety-provoking situations. ■ stimulate or incite (someone) to do or feel something, esp. by arousing anger in them: a

teacher can provoke you into working harder. ■ deliberately make (one) annoyed or angry. —**pro-vok-a-ble** adj. —**pro-voker** n. —**pro-vok-ing-ly** adv.

pro-vo-lo-ne /prə've'lönē/ ▶ n. an Italian soft smoked cheese made from cow's milk and having a mellow flavor.

pro-vost /'prɒ,vɒst/ ▶ n. 1 a senior administrative officer in certain colleges and universities. ■ Brit. the head of certain university colleges, esp. at Oxford or Cambridge, and public schools. 2 the head of a cathedral. 3 short for PROVOST MARSHAL. 4 Scottish title of a mayor. —**pro-vost-ship** /-ʃɪp/ n.

pro-vost mar-shal ▶ n. the head of military police in camp or on a ship.

prow /prəʊ/ ▶ n. the portion of a ship's bow above water. ■ the prow or projecting front part of something such as a car or building.

prow-ess /'prəʊ-əs; 'prɒ-əs/ ▶ n. 1 skill or expertise in a particular activity or field: his prowess as a fisherman. 2 bravery in battle.

prowl /prəʊl/ ▶ v. [tr.] (of a person or animal) move around (a place) in search of or as if in search of prey: black bears prowl the canyon. ■ (of a person or animal) move stealthily or restlessly as or like a prowler.

▶ n. an act of prowling. —**prowler** n.

▶ □ on the prowl (of a person or animal) moving around in search of prey.

prox-i-mal /'præksəmə/ ▶ adj. Anat. situated nearer to the center of the body or the point of attachment. The opposite of DISTAL. —**prox-i-mal-ly** adv.

prox-i-mi-ty /'præksɪməti/ ▶ n. nearness in space, time, or relation.

prox-y /'præksē/ ▶ n. (pl. prox-ies) 1 the authority to represent someone else, esp. in voting: they may register to vote by proxy. ■ a person authorized to act on behalf of another. ■ a document authorizing a person to vote on another's behalf. 2 a figure that can be used to represent the value of something in a calculation: the use of a U.S. wealth measure as a proxy for the true worldwide measure.

prude /pruːd/ ▶ n. a person who is or claims to be easily shocked by information from prudefemme, feminine of prud'homme 'good man, true,' from prou 'worthy.' —**pru-de-ry** /'pruːdəri/ n. —**pru-de-ly** adv. —**pru-de-ness** n.

pru-dent /'pruːdnt/ ▶ adj. acting with or showing care and thought for the future: a prudent money manager. —**pru-dence** n. —**pru-dently** adv.

pru-den-tial /'pruːdənʃəl/ ▶ adj. involving or showing care and thought, typically in business. —**pru-den-tial-ly** adv.

prune /pruːn/ ▶ n. a plum preserved by drying, having a black, wrinkled appearance. ■ inf. an unpleasant or disagreeable person.

prune ▶ v. [tr.] trim (a tree, shrub, or bush) by cutting away dead or overgrown branches or stems, esp. to increase fruitfulness and growth. ■ cut away (a branch or stem) in this way: prune back the branches. ■ reduce the extent of (something) by removing superfluous or unwanted parts: reduction achieved by pruning costs. ■ remove (superfluous or unwanted parts) from something. —**pruner** n.

pru-ri-ent /'pruːriənt/ ▶ adj. having or encouraging an excessive interest in sexual matters. —**pru-ri-ence** n. —**pru-ri-ency** n. —**pru-ri-ent-ly** adv.

pry /prɪ/ ▶ v. (pries, pried) [intr.] inquire too closely into a person's private affairs: I'm sick of you prying into my personal life [as adj.] prying place where she could escape from the prying eyes. —**prying-ly** adv.

pry ▶ v. (pries, pried) [tr.] use force in order to move or open (something) or to separate (something) from something else: using a crowbar, he pried open the window. ■ (pry something out of/from) obtain something from (someone) with effort or difficulty.

PS ▶ abbr. ■ passenger steamer. ■ permanent secretary. ■ postscript. ■ private secretary. ■ Privy Seal. ■ prompt side. ■ Public School.

Ps. (pl. Pss.) ▶ abbr. Bible Psalm or Psalms.

psalm /sɑ(l)m/ (also Psalm) ▶ n. a sacred song or hymn, in particular of those contained in the biblical Book of Psalms and used in Christian and Jewish worship. ■ (the Psalms) a book of the Bible comprising a collection of religious verses, sung or recited in both Jewish and Christian worship. —**psalm-ic** /sɑ(l)mɪk/ adj.

psalm-ist /sɑ(l)mɪst/ ▶ n. the author or composer of a psalm, esp. of one of the biblical Psalms.

psal-ter /sɒltər/ ▶ n. (the psalter or the Psalter) the Book of Psalms, a copy of the biblical Psalms, esp. for liturgical use.

psal-ter-y /sɒltərə/ ▶ n. (pl. -ter-ies) an ancient and medieval musical instrument like a dulcimer but played by plucking the strings with the fingers or a plectrum.

PSAT

PSAT ▶ abbr.

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