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pre-de-ter-mine \-di-'tər-mən\ *vt* [LL *praedeterminare*, fr. L *prae-* + *determinare* to determine] (1622) 1 a: FOREORDAIN, PREDESTINE b: to determine beforehand 2: to impose a direction or tendency on beforehand

pre-de-ter-min-er \-di-'tər-mə-nər\ *n* (1959): a limiting noun modifier (as *both* or *all*) characterized by occurrence before the determiner in a noun phrase

pre-di-a-be-tes \prē-'dī-ə-'bē-tēz-, -təs\ *n* (1935): an asymptomatic abnormal state that precedes the development of clinically evident diabetes — **pre-di-a-be-tic** \-bē-tik\ *adj* or *n*

pre-di-al \prē-'dē-əl\ *adj* [ME *prediall*, fr. ML *praedialis*, fr. L *praedium* landed property, fr. *prae-*, *prae-* bondsman, fr. *prae-* + *vad-*, *vas* surety — more at *WED*] (15c): of or relating to land or its products

pred-i-ca-ble \prē-'dī-kə-bəl\ *n* [ML *praedicabile*, fr. neut. of *praedicabilis*] (1551): something that may be predicated; esp: one of the five most general kinds of attribution in traditional logic that include genus, species, difference, property, and accident

predicable *adj* [ML *praedicabilis*, fr. LL *praedicare* to predicate] (ca. 1598): capable of being asserted

pre-dic-a-ment \pri-'dī-kə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *praedicamentum*, fr. *praedicare*] (14c) 1: the character, status, or classification assigned by a predication; *specif*: CATEGORY 1 2: CONDITION, STATE; esp: a difficult, perplexing, or trying situation

pred-i-ca-tion \prē-'dī-kə-ti-ən\ *n* [ME, fr. LL *praedicatum*, fr. neut. of *praedicatus*] (15c) 1 a: something that is affirmed or denied of the subject in a proposition in logic b: a term designating a property or relation 2: the part of a sentence or clause that expresses what is said of the subject and that usu. consists of a verb with or without objects, complements, or adverbial modifiers — **pred-i-ca-tive** \-kə-tiv-, -kə-*adj* — **pred-i-ca-tive-ly** *adv*

pred-i-cate \prē-'dī-kāt\ *vt* -*cat-ed*, -*cat-ing* [LL *praedicatus*, pp. of *praedicare* to assert, predicate logically, preach, fr. L. to proclaim, assert — more at *PREACH*] (ca. 1552) 1 a: AFFIRM, DECLARE b *archaic*: PREACH 2 a: to assert to be a quality, attribute, or property — used with following of <~s intelligence of humans> b: to make (a term) the predicate in a proposition 3: FOUND, BASE — usu. used with *on* <the theory is predicated on recent findings> 4: IMPLY

pred-i-ca-tor \prē-'dī-kə-tər\ *adj* (1887): completing the meaning of a copula <~ adjective> (<~ noun>)

predicate calculus *n* (1950): the branch of symbolic logic that uses symbols for quantifiers and for arguments and predicates of propositions as well as for unanalyzed propositions and logical connectives — called also *functional calculus*; compare PROPOSITIONAL CALCULUS

predicate nominative *n* (1887): a noun or pronoun in the nominative or common case completing the meaning of a copula

pred-i-ca-tion \prē-'dī-kə-ti-ən\ *n* [ME *predication*, fr. AF *predicacium*, fr. L *praedication*, *praedicatio*, fr. *praedicare*] (14c) 1 *archaic* a: an act of proclaiming or preaching b: SERMON 2: an act or instance of predicating; as a: the expression of action, state, or quality by a grammatical predicate b: the logical affirmation of something about another; esp: assignment of something to a class

pred-i-ca-to-ry \prē-'dī-kə-tōr-ē\ *adj* [LL *praedicatorius*, fr. *praedicare* to preach] (1611): of or relating to preaching

pre-dict \pri-'dikt\ *vb* [L *praedictus*, pp. of *praedicere*, fr. *prae-* + *dicere* to say — more at *DICTION*] *vt* (1609): to declare or indicate in advance; esp: foretell on the basis of observation, experience, or scientific reason ~ *vi*: to make a prediction *syn* see *FORETELL* — **pre-dict-a-bil-i-ty** \-dik-tə-'bī-lē-tē\ *n* — **pre-dict-a-ble** \-dik-tə-'bəl\ *adj* — **pre-dic-tive** \-dik-tiv\ *adj* — **pre-dic-tive-ly** \-lē\ *adv* — **pre-dic-tor** \-dik-tər\ *n*

pre-dict-a-ble \-dik-tə-'bəl\ *adv* (1914) 1: in a manner that can be predicted <works quickly and ~> 2: as one could predict: as one would expect <~, the politicians howled>

pre-dic-tion \pri-'dik-shən\ *n* (1561) 1: an act of predicting 2: something that is predicted: FORECAST

pre-di-gest \prē-'dī-jest-, -dā\ *vt* (1663) 1: to subject to predigestion 2: to simplify for easy use <~ed classics for children>

pre-di-ges-tion \-jes-shən-, -jesh-*n* (ca. 1612): artificial or natural partial digestion of food (enzymatic ~) <microbial ~>

pre-di-lec-tion \prē-'dī-lek-shən\ *n* [F *predilection*, fr. ML *praediligere* to love more, prefer, fr. L *prae-* + *diligere* to love — more at *DILIGENT*] (1742): an established preference for something

syn PREDILECTION, PREPOSSSESSION, PREJUDICE, BIAS mean an attitude of mind that predisposes one to favor something. PREDILECTION implies a strong liking deriving from one's temperament or experience <a predilection for travel>. PREPOSSSESSION suggests a fixed conception <a predilection for technology>. PREJUDICE usu. implies an unfavorable prepossession and connotes a feeling rooted in suspicion, fear, or intolerance <a mindless prejudice against the unfamiliar>. BIAS implies an unreasoned and unfair distortion of judgment in favor of or against a person or thing <a strong bias toward the plaintiff>.

pre-dis-pose \prē-'dī-spōz\ *vt* (1646) 1: to dispose in advance <a good teacher ~s children to learn> 2: to make susceptible <malnutrition ~s one to disease> ~ *vi*: to bring about susceptibility *syn* see *INCLINE* — **pre-dis-po-si-tion** \prē-'dis-pō-'zi-shən\ *n*

pred-nis-o-lone \pred-'ni-sə-'lōn\ *n* [blend of *prednisone* and *-ol*] (1955): a glucocorticoid C₂₁H₂₈O₅ that is a dehydrogenated analog of cortisol and is used esp. as an anti-inflammatory drug

pred-ni-sone \pred-'ni-sən\ *also* -zōn\ *n* [prob. fr. *pregnane* (C₂₁H₃₆) + *diene* (compound containing two double bonds) + *cortisone*] (1955): a glucocorticoid C₂₁H₂₈O₅ that is a dehydrogenated analog of cortisone and is used as an anti-inflammatory agent, as an antineoplastic agent, and as an immunosuppressant

pre-doc-tor-al \prē-'dāk-t(ə)-rəl\ *adj* (1937): of, relating to, or engaged in academic study leading to the doctoral degree

pre-dom-i-nance \pri-'dā-mə-nən(t)s-, -dām-nən(t)s\ *n* (1592): the quality or state of being predominant

pre-dom-i-nant \pri-'dā-mə-nənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *praedominant*, *praedominans*, pp. of *praedominari* to predominate, fr. L *prae-* + *dominari* to rule, govern — more at *DOMINATE*] (1576) 1: having superior strength, influence, or authority: PREVAILING 2: being most frequent or common *syn* see *DOMINANT*

pre-dom-i-nant-ly \-nənt-lē\ *adv* (1681): for the most part: MAINLY

pre-dom-i-nate \-nənt\ *adj* [alter. of *predominant*] (1591): PREDOMINANT

pre-dom-i-nate \pri-'dā-mə-nāt\ *vb* [ML *praedominatus*, pp. of *praedominari*] *vt* (1594) 1: to hold advantage in numbers or quantity 2: to exert controlling power or influence: PREVAIL ~ *vi*: to exert control over: DOMINATE — **pre-dom-i-na-tion** \-dā-mə-'nā-shən\ *n*

pre-dom-i-nate-ly \pri-'dā-mə-nənt-lē\ *adv* (1594): PREDOMINANTLY

pre-e \prē\ *vi* *preed*; *pre-e* \-ē\ *adj* (1935): used or occurring before emergence of seedlings above the ground (~ herbicides)

pre-em-er-gence \prē-'em-ə-rjən(t)s\ *n* (1935): used or occurring before emergence of seedlings above the ground (~ herbicides)

pre-em-er-gent \-jənt\ *adj* (1959): PREEMERGENCE

pre-e-mile *also* **pre-mile** \prē-'mē\ *n* [premature + *-ie*] (1927): a premature baby

pre-em-i-nence \prē-'e-mə-nən(t)s\ *n* (13c): the quality or state of being preeminent: SUPERIORITY

pre-em-i-nent \-nənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. LL *praeminens*, *praeminens*, fr. L, pp. of *praeminere* to be outstanding, fr. *prae-* + *eminere* to stand out — more at *EMINENT*] (15c): 1 a: having paramount rank, dignity, or importance: OUTSTANDING, SUPREME — **pre-em-i-nent-ly** *adv*

pre-empt \prē-'em(p)t\ *vb* [back-formation fr. *preemption*] *vt* (1850) 1: to acquire (as land) by preemption 2: to seize upon to the exclusion of others: take for oneself <the movement was then ~ed by a lunatic fringe> 3: to replace with something over <the program did not appear, ue or priority: take precedence game — Robert MacNeil> 4: to gain a commanding or preeminent place in 5: to prevent from happening or taking place: FORESTALL, PRECLUDE ~ *vi*: to make a preemptive bid in bridge — **pre-empt-or** \-em(p)-tər\ *n*

pre-emp-tion \-em(p)-tən\ *n* [ML *praemptio*, *praemptio* previous purchase, fr. *praemere* to buy before, fr. L *prae-* + *emere* to buy — more at *REDEEM*] (1602) 1 a: the right of purchasing before others; esp: one given by the government to the actual settler upon a tract of public land b: the purchase of something under this right 2: a prior seizure or appropriation: a taking possession before others

pre-emp-tive \-em(p)-tiv\ *adj* (1855) 1 a: of or relating to preemption b: having power to preempt 2 of a bid in bridge: higher than necessary and intended to shut out bids by the opponents 3: giving a stockholder first option to purchase new stock in an amount proportionate to his existing holdings 4: marked by the seizing of the initiative: initiated by oneself <a ~ attack> — **pre-emp-tive-ly** *adv*

pre-en \prēn\ *n* [ME *prene*, fr. OE *preon*; akin to MHG *pfrieme* awl] (bef. 12c) 1 *dialect chiefly Brit*: PIN 2 *dialect chiefly Brit*: BROOCH

pre-en *vb* (1572) *chiefly Scot*: PIN

pre-en *vb* [ME *prenen*, alter. of *proyenen*, *prunen*, fr. AF *puoir*, *proindre*, fr. *pur-* thoroughly + *uindre*, *oindre* to anoint; rub, fr. L *ungere* — more at *PURCHASE*, *ointment*] *vt* (14c) 1 of a bird: to groom with the bill esp. by rearranging the barbs and barbules of the feathers and by distributing oil from the uropygial gland 2: to dress or smooth (oneself) up: PRIMP 3: to pride or congratulate (oneself) for achievement ~ *vi* 1: to make oneself sleek 2: GLOAT, SWELL — **pre-en-er** *n*

pre-en-gi-neered \prē-'en-jə-'nīrd\ *adj* (1951): constructed of or employing prefabricated modules <a ~ metal building>

pre-ex-il-lic \prē-'eg-'zī-līk\ *adj* (1880): previous to the exile of the Jews to Babylon in about 600 B.C.

pre-ex-ist \prē-'ig-'zīst\ *vi* (1599): to exist earlier or before ~ *vi*: AN-TEDEDATE

pre-ex-is-tence \-ig-'zīst-ən(t)s\ *n* (ca. 1652): existence in a former state or previous to something else; *specif*: existence of the soul before its union with the body — **pre-ex-is-tent** \-tənt\ *adj*

pref *abbr* 1 *preface* 2 *preference*; preferred 3 *prefix*

pre-fab \prē-'fab-, -fə\ *adj* (1937): produced by prefabrication 1: PREFABRICATED <a ~ house>

prefab *n* (1942): a prefabricated structure

pre-fab-ri-cate \prē-'fa-brī-'kāt\ *vt* (1932) 1: to fabricate the parts of at a factory so that construction consists mainly of assembling and uniting standardized parts 2: to produce artificially — **pre-fab-ri-ca-tion** \-fa-brī-'kā-shən\ *n*

pre-fa-ce \prē-'fəs\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. ML *prae-fatio*, alter. of L *praefatio*, *praefatio* foreword, fr. *praefari* to say beforehand, fr. *prae-* + *fari* to say — more at *BAN*] (14c) 1 *often cap*: a variable doxology beginning with the Sursum Corda and ending with the Sanctus in traditional eucharistic liturgies 2: the introductory remarks of a speaker or author 3: APPROACH, PRELIMINARY

preface *vb* *prefaced*; *preface* *vi* (1619): to make introductory remarks ~ *vt* 1: to say or write as preface <a note prefaced to the manuscript> 2: PRECEDE, HERALD 3: to introduce by or begin with a preface 4: to stand in front of (a porch ~s the entrance) 5: to be a preliminary to — **pre-fa-cer** *n*

pre-fa-to-ry \prē-'fə-tōr-ē\ *adj* [L *praefari*] (1675) 1: of, relating to, or constituting a preface (~ remarks) 2: located in front

pre-fect \prē-'fekt\ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. L *praefectus*, fr. pp. of *praeficere* to place at the head of, fr. *prae-* + *facere* to make — more at *DO*] (14c) 1: any of various high officials or magistrates of differing functions and ranks in ancient Rome 2: a chief officer or chief magistrate 3: a student monitor in a usu. private school

prefect apostolic *n* (ca. 1888): a Roman Catholic clergyman and usu. a priest with quasi-episcopal jurisdiction over a district of a missionary territory

pre-fec-ture \prē-'fek-cher\ *n* (15c) 1: the office or term of office of a prefect 2: the official residence of a prefect 3: the district governed by a prefect — **pre-fec-tur-al** \prē-'fek-cha-rəl, pri-'*adj*

prefecture apostolic *n* (1911): the district under a prefect apostolic

pre-fer \pri-'fər\ *vt* *preferred*; *prefer* *vi* [ME *preferen*, fr. AF *preferre*, fr. L *praeferre* to put before, prefer, fr. *prae-* + *ferre* to carry — more at *BEAR*] (14c) 1: to promote or advance to a rank or position