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God, esp. when conceived as exercising such care and guidance in directing human affairs. 3. a manifestation of divine care or direction. 4. provident or prudent management of resources. 5. foresight; provident care. [1300-50; ME < L *providentia* foresight, forethought]

provident (prō'vī dant), *adj.* 1. having or showing foresight; providing carefully for the future. 2. mindful in making provision (usu. fol. by *of*). 3. economical; frugal; thrifty. —**provident-ly**, *adv.*

providential (prō'vī den'shal), *adj.* 1. of, pertaining to, or resulting from divine providence. 2. opportune, fortunate, or lucky: a providential event. —**providential-ly**, *adv.*

provid-er (prā vī'dər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that provides. 2. a person who supports a family or another person. [1515-25]

provid-ing (prā vī'ding), *conj.* on the condition or understanding (that); provided: You can stay providing you do some work. [1375-1425] —**Usage**. See **PROVIDED**.

pro-vince (prov'ins), *n.* 1. an administrative division or unit of a country, esp. any of the 10 principal political units of Canada. 2. the provinces, the parts of a country outside of the capital or the largest cities. 3. a country, territory, district, or region. 4. a. a major region of the earth or biosphere. b. a biogeographic zone characterized by its dominant plants and animals. 5. a department or branch of learning or activity: the province of mathematics. 6. a sphere or field of activity or authority, as of a person. 7. an ecclesiastical territorial division, as that within which an archbishop or a metropolitan exercises jurisdiction. 8. a country or territory of the Roman Empire outside of Italy administered by a governor sent from Rome. [1300-50; ME < MF < L *provincia* province, official charge]

pro-vin-cial (prā vin'shal), *adj.* 1. belonging or peculiar to a particular province or provinces; local. 2. of or pertaining to the provinces. 3. rustic, narrow, or illiberal; unsophisticated; parochial. 4. (often *cap.*) of or pertaining to styles of furniture, architecture, etc., developed in the provinces, esp. when based on styles originating in or around the capital: Italian provincial. —**n.** a person who lives in or comes from the provinces. 6. a person lacking in urban sophistication or broad-mindedness. 7. a. the head of an ecclesiastical province. [1300-50; ME (n. and *adj.*) < L *provincialis*. See **PROVINCE**, -*AL*.] —**pro-vin-cial-ly**, *adv.*

pro-vin-cial-ism (prā vin'shā liz'əm), *n.* 1. narrowness of views or interests; lack of sophistication. 2. a trait, habit of thought, etc., characteristic of a provincial, a province, or the provinces. 3. a word, expression, or pronunciation peculiar to a region. 4. devotion to one's own province before the nation as a whole. [1760-70]

pro-vin-cial-ity (prā vin'shē al'ī tē), *n., pl. -ties* 1. provincial character; provincialism. 2. a provincial characteristic. [1775-85]

pro-ving ground, *n.* any place, context, or area for testing something, as scientific equipment or a theory. [1940-45]

pro-vi-rus (prō'vī'ras, prō'vī'), *n., pl. -ruses*. a viral form that is incorporated into the genetic material of a host cell. [1945-50]

pro-vi-sion (prā vizh'an), *n.* 1. the act of providing or supplying. 2. something provided or supplied. 3. an arrangement or preparation made beforehand, as to meet needs. 4. a clause in a law, legal instrument, etc., providing for something; stipulation; proviso. 5. provisions, supplies of food. 6. an appointment to an ecclesiastical office. —*v.t.* 7. to supply with provisions. [1300-50; ME < L *provisio* a foreseeing = *providē*, var. s. of *providēre* to provide + *-tiō* (-*tiōn*)] —**pro-vi-sion-er**, *n.* —**pro-vi-sion-less**, *adj.*

pro-vi-sion-al (prā vizh'ə nəl), *adj.* 1. serving for the time being only; temporary: a provisional government. 2. accepted or adopted tentatively; conditional. 3. (*usu. cap.*) of or being the wing of the Irish Republican Army that follows a policy of terrorism and violence. —*n.* 4. a postage stamp issued for temporary use, as by a local post office prior to regular government issues. 5. a provisional member of a group. 6. (*usu. cap.*) a member of the Provisional wing of the Irish Republican Army. Also, **pro-vi-sion-ar-y** (-vizh'ə nər'ē) (for defs. 1, 2). [1595-1605] —**pro-vi-sion-al-ly**, *adv.*

pro-vi-so (prā vī'zō), *n., pl. -sos, -soes*. 1. a clause, as in a statute or contract, by which a condition is introduced. 2. a stipulation or condition. [1400-50; late ME < ML *provisō*, for *provisō* (*quod*) it being provided (that), abl. neut. sing. of L *provisus*, ptp. of *providēre* to provide]

pro-vi-so-ry (prā vī'zə rē), *adj.* 1. containing a proviso or condition; conditional. 2. PROVISIONAL (defs. 1, 2). [1605-15; < ML *provisōrius* = L *providē*, var. s. of *providēre* to provide + *-tōrius* (-*tōry*)] —**pro-vi-so-ri-ly**, *adv.*

pro-vi-ta-min (prō vīt'a min; *Brit. also* prō vit'a min), *n.* a substance that an organism can transform into a vitamin, as carotene, which is converted to vitamin A in the liver. [1925-30]

provitamin A, *n.* CAROTENE. [1950-55]

pro-vo (prō'vō), *n., pl. -vos*. (sometimes *l.c.*) PROVISIONAL (def. 6).

pro-vo-ca-teur (prā vok'ə tūr', -tōr'), *n.* a person who provokes trouble or incites dissension; agitator; agent provocateur. [1915-20; < F < L *provocātor* challenger, appellant = *provocā*(re) to provoke + *-tor* (-*tor*)]

pro-vo-ca-tion (prov'ə kă'shən), *n.* 1. the act of provoking. 2. something that provokes, esp. by inciting, instigating, angering, or irritating. [1375-1425; late ME < L *provocātiō* challenge, appeal = *provocā*(re) to provoke + *-tiō* (-*tiōn*)] —**pro-vo-ca-tion-al**, *adj.*

pro-vo-ca-tive (prā vok'ə tiv), *adj.* 1. tending or serving to provoke; stimulating, exciting, or vexing. —*n.* 2. something provocative. [1375-1425; late ME < LL *provocātivus*. See **PROVOKE**, -*AT*-, -*IVE*] —**pro-vo-ca-tive-ly**, *adv.* —**pro-vo-ca-tive-ness**, *n.*

pro-voke (prā vōk'), *v.t., -voked, -vok-ing*. 1. to anger, exasperate,

or vex. 2. to stir up, arouse, or call forth (feelings, desires, or activity). 3. to incite or stimulate to action. 4. to give rise to, induce, or bring about. [1400-50; < L *provocāre* to call forth, challenge, provoke = *pro-* + *vocāre* to call] —**pro-vok'er**, *n.* —**Syn.** See **INCITE**.

pro-vok-ing (prā vō'king), *adj.* serving to provoke; causing annoyance or anger. [1520-30] —**pro-vok-ing-ly**, *adv.*

pro-vo-lo-ne (prō'və lō'nē), *n.* a mellow, light-colored Italian cheese, usu. smoked after drying. [1945-50; < It, orig. dial. (S Italy) = *provola* (a) kind of cheese (of uncert. orig.) + *-one* aug. suffix]

pro-vost (prō'vōst, prov'ast or, *esp. in military usage*, prō'vō), *n.* 1. a person appointed to superintend or preside. 2. a high-ranking administrative officer of some colleges and universities, concerned with the curriculum, faculty appointments, etc. 3. the chief dignity of a cathedral or collegiate church. 4. the mayor of a municipality in Scotland. 5. *Obs.* a prison warden. [bef. 900; ME; OE *profost* < ML *propositus* abbot, prior, provost, lit., (one) placed before, L: ptp. of *proponere*. See **PROPOUND**] —**pro-vost-ship**, *n.*

pro-vost court (prō'vōt), *n.* (in occupied territory) a military court, usu. composed of one officer, empowered to try military personnel and civilians for minor offenses. [1860-65]

pro-vost guard (prō'vōt), *n.* a detachment of soldiers assigned to police duties under the provost marshal. [1770-80, *Amer.*]

pro-vost mar'shal (prō'vōt), *n.* 1. an officer in the army charged with maintaining order and with other police functions within a command. 2. an officer in the navy charged with the safekeeping of a prisoner pending trial by court-martial. [1525-35]

pro-w (prou), *n.* 1. the forepart of a ship or boat; bow. 2. a similar projecting forepart, as the nose of an airplane. [1545-55; < MF *proue* < Upper It (Genoese) *prua* < L *prōra* < Gk *prōira*]

pro-w (prou), *adj.* Archaic. vallant. [1350-1400; ME < OF *prou* < VL **prodis*. See **PROUD**]

pro-w-ess (prou'is), *n.* 1. exceptional ability, skill, or strength. 2. exceptional valor or bravery, esp. in combat or battle. [1250-1300; ME < OF *proesse*, *proece* goodness, bravery = *prou* *pro-w* + *-esse* < L *-itia* -*ice*]

pro-wl (proul), *v.i.* 1. to rove or go about stealthily, as in search of prey or something to steal. —*v.t.* 2. to rove over or through in search of what may be found: to prowl the streets. —*n.* 3. the act of prowling. —**Idiom.** 4. on the prowl, in the act of prowling; searching stealthily. [1350-1400; ME *prollen*, of uncert. orig.] —**Syn.** See **LURK**.

pro-wl' car, *n.* SQUAD CAR. [1935-40, *Amer.*]

pro-wl-er (prou'lar), *n.* 1. one that prowls. 2. one who goes stealthily about with an unlawful intention, as to commit theft. [1510-20]

prox., proximo.

prox-e-mics (prok sē'miks), *n.* (used with a *sing. v.*) the study of varying patterns of physical proximity in human or animal populations, esp. their role in social interaction and their effect on behavior. [1960-65; PROXIMITY + *-emics* (extracted from **PHONEMICS**)] —**prox-e-mic**, *adj.*

Prox-i-ma Centau'ri (prok'sə mā), *n.* the nearest star to the sun at a distance of 4.3 light-years, part of Alpha Centauri. [< NL: nearest (star) of CENTAURUS]

prox-i-mal (prok'sə māl), *adj.* 1. situated toward the point of origin or attachment, as of a limb or bone. Compare **DISTAL** (def. 1). 2. of or designating the surface of a tooth nearest to a specified adjacent tooth. 3. nearest; proximate. [1720-30; < L *proxim(us)* next (superl. of *prope* near) + *-AL*.] —**prox-i-mal-ly**, *adv.*

prox-i-mate (prok'sə mit), *adj.* 1. next; nearest; immediately before or after in order, place, occurrence, etc. 2. close; very near. 3. forthcoming; imminent. 4. approximate; fairly accurate. [1590-1600; < LL *proximatus*, ptp. of *proximāre* to near, approach. See **PROXIMAL**, -*ATE*.] —**prox-i-mate-ly**, *adv.* —**prox-i-mate-ness**, *n.*

prox-im-i-ty (prok sim'ī tē), *n.* nearness in place, time, relation, etc. [1475-85; < L *proximitas* nearness, vicinity. See **PROXIMAL**, -*ITY*]

proxim-ity fuze, *n.* a device for detonating a charge, as in a projectile, within a predesignated radius of a target. [1940-45]

prox-i-mo (prok'sə mō'), *adv.* Archaic. in, of, or during the next month: on the 10th proximo. [1850-55; < L *proximō*, abl. of *proximus* next]

prox-y (prok'sē), *n., pl. prox-ies*. 1. the agency, function, or power of a person authorized to act as the deputy or substitute for another. 2. the person so authorized; substitute; agent. 3. a written authorization empowering another person to vote or act for the signer, as at a meeting of stockholders. [1400-50; late ME *prokseye*, *procusie*, contr. of *procuracy* procurator. See **PROCURE**, -*ACV*]

Pro-zac (prō'zak), *Trademark*. a brand of fluoxetine hydrochloride, used chiefly as an antidepressant.

prp., present participle.

pr., pairs.

prude (prōd), *n.* a person who is excessively proper or modest and is or affects to be easily shocked, esp. in matters involving sex. [1695-1705; < F *prude* a prude (n.), prudish (adj.), short for *prudemme*, OF *prudemme* worthy or respectable woman. See **PROUD**, **FEMME**]

pru-dence (prōd'ns), *n.* 1. the quality or fact of being prudent. 2. wisdom with regard to practical matters. 3. cautiousness; circumspection. 4. provident care in the management of resources; economy. [1300-50]

pru-dent (prōd'nt), *adj.* 1. wise or judicious in practical affairs. 2. discreet or circumspect; cautious. 3. careful in providing for the future; provident. [1350-1400; ME < L *prudēt* (-s. of *prudēs*), contr. of *providēns* PROVIDENT] —**pru-dent-ly**, *adv.*

pru-den-tial (prōd den'shal), *adj.* 1. of, characterized by, or resulting



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British

proximate

[[prok-suh-mit](#)] [SHOW IPA](#)  [See synonyms for proximate on Thesaurus.com](#)

adjective

1. next; nearest; immediately before or after in order, place, occurrence, etc.
2. close; very near.
3. approximate; fairly accurate.
4. forthcoming; imminent.

[SEE LESS](#)

A large image featuring a bowl of food (noodles, shrimp, vegetables) on the right and a woman's face on the left. Overlaid on the image is a blue banner with the text "WORD OF THE DAY" and a white banner with the text "gastrodiplomacy". Below the main image is a row of smaller video thumbnails.

WORD OF THE DAY

gastrodiplomacy

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phantomnation

WORD OF THE DAY

Do you like raisins? How do you feel about a date?

How To Woo A Word...

Is The Word...

QUIZ

<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/proximate>

1/7

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WORD OF THE DAY QUIZ: ENHANCE YOUR EUEDEMONIA!

Revel in recalling the words from September 25–October 1, 2023!

QUESTION 1 OF 7

What does MODICUM mean?

a person or thing that shows the existence or direction of a trend.

a nickname.

a moderate or small amount.

TAKE THE QUIZ TO FIND OUT**ORIGIN OF PROXIMATE¹**1590–1600; <Late Latin *proximātus*, past participle of *proximāre* to near, approach. See [proximal](#), [-ate](#)¹**OTHER WORDS FROM PROXIMATE****prox·i·mate·ly**, adverb**prox·i·mate·ness**, noun**prox·i·ma·tion** ⓘ [prok-suh-mey-shuhn], noun**WORDS NEARBY PROXIMATE**[prox.](#), [proxemics](#), [Proxima](#), [Proxima Centauri](#), [proximal](#), **proximate**, [proxime accessit](#), [proximity](#), [proximity fuse](#), [proximity fuze](#), [proximity talks](#)

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WORDS RELATED TO PROXIMATE[direct](#), [forthcoming](#), [imminent](#), [near](#), [nearby](#), [next](#)**HOW TO USE PROXIMATE IN A SENTENCE**The more *proximate* causes of the pollution deaths include pneumonia, stroke, and heart disease.

THIS IS YOUR BRAIN ON POLLUTION (EP. 472) | STEPHEN J. DUBNER | AUGUST 12, 2021 | FREAKONOMICS

Amenities often include picnic tables, fire pits, nearby tent areas, and a *proximate* water source.

HIKING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE | KAREN BERGER | JUNE 28, 2021 | OUTSIDE ONLINE

The *proximate* cause of this year's drought is a weak summer monsoon coupled with La Niña conditions that steered storms north.

THE AMERICAN WEST IS BRACING FOR A HOT, DRY, AND DANGEROUS SUMMER | JAMES TEMPLE | MAY 20, 2021 | MIT TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

The *proximate* cause of Texas's grid failure is now well understood.

AS THE TEXAS POWER CRISIS SHOWS, OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IS VULNERABLE TO EXTREME WEATHER | AMY NORDRUM | MARCH 6, 2021 | MIT TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

The sample groups in both studies were small, and in the overwhelming number of cases of coronavirus death, heart failure is not the *proximate* cause.

COVID-19 MAY LEAD TO A HEART-DISEASE SURGE | JEFFREY KLUGER | FEBRUARY 4, 2021 | TIME

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BRITISH DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS FOR PROXIMATE

proximate

proximal / ('prɒksɪmət) /

adjective

1. next or nearest in space or time
2. very near; close
3. immediately preceding or following in a series
4. a less common word for [approximate](#)

[SEE LESS](#)

ORIGIN OF PROXIMATE¹

C16: from Late Latin *proximāre* to draw near, from Latin *proximus* next, from *prope* near

DERIVED FORMS OF PROXIMATE

proximately, adverb
proximateness, noun
proximation, noun

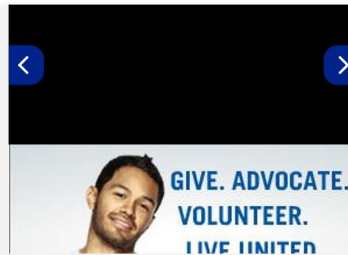
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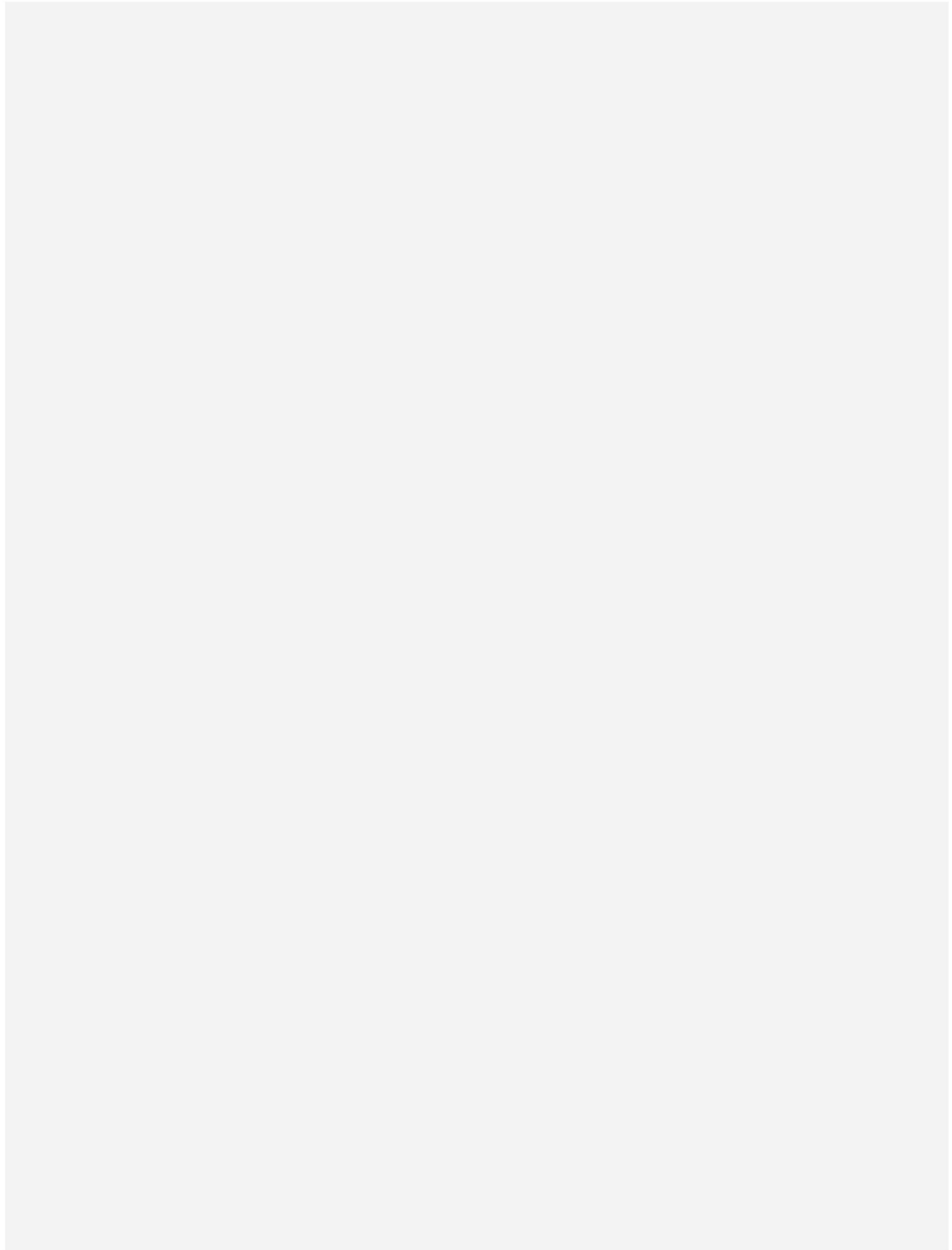
WORD OF THE DAY
 October 06, 2023

gastrodiplomacy

noun | [gas-troh-di-ploh-muh-see]

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Meaning of **proximate** in English



proximate

adjective • formal

UK /'prɒk.sɪ.mət/ US /'prɑːk.sə.mət/

Add to word list

closest in time, place, relationship, etc. to something:

- *The problem with climate change was that it seemed so much less proximate than terrorism.*
- *The danger is greatest if the fireball is proximate **to** the target.*
- *Insurance covers the proximate **cause** of a loss—e.g. a rusty roof that lets rainwater in.*

— Fewer examples

- *The most likely explanation is that her exposure to anthrax was relatively proximate to the onset of illness.*
- *How much more proximate can you get to the public?*
- *The problems were the direct and proximate result of the negligence of the church.*

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

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What is the pronunciation of **proximate**? >



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prowler
prowling
proximal
proximally
proximate
proximate cause
proximately
proximity
proxy



Cambridge
Dictionary

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More meanings of *proximate*

— All

proximate cause

[See all meanings](#)





WORD OF THE DAY

adaptive learning

UK  /əˌdæp.tɪv ˈlɜː.nɪŋ/ US  /əˌdæp.tɪv ˈlɜː.nɪŋ/

a method of education or training using computers, that uses algorithms (= sets of mathematical rules) to change teaching material, exercises, etc. according to the needs and performance of each learner

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October 04, 2023



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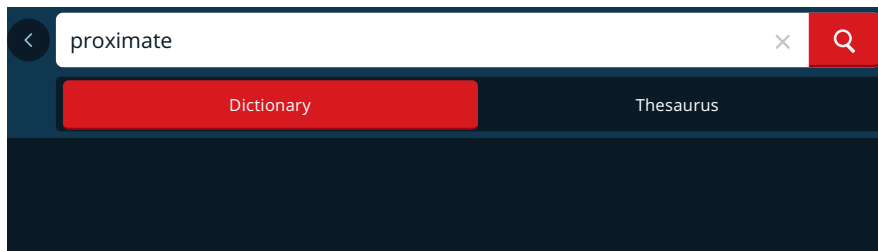
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proximate adjective

prox-i-mate ('prāk-sə-mət)

[Synonyms of proximate >](#)

1 : immediately preceding or following (as in a chain of events, causes, or effects)

proximate, rather than ultimate, goals

— Reinhold Niebuhr

2 a : very near : [CLOSE](#)

b : soon forthcoming : [IMMINENT](#)

proximately adverb

proximateness noun

Did you know?

If you'd like to approach a better understanding of *proximate*, and an approximation of its history, pull up a chair and get cozy with the history of its etymological proximity to other English words. *Proximate* comes ultimately from the Latin adjective *prope*, meaning "near," a source too of [approach](#), [reproach](#), and [propinquity](#). Other close relations of *proximate* are easier to spot: they include [proximity](#), [approximation](#) and [approximate](#).

Synonyms

[approaching](#)

[forthcoming](#)

[impending](#)

[oncoming](#)

[upcoming](#)

[coming](#)

[imminent](#)

[nearing](#)

[pending](#)



Dictionary

Thesaurus

Examples of *proximate* in a Sentence

the *proximate* cause of the fire

the *proximate* publication of his first novel

Recent Examples on the Web

There is just muffled breathing and the soft, warm, *proximate* presence of another ... Over a 70-year career, Freud concerned himself almost exclusively with getting paint to convey the living weight and mortal gorgeousness of the human body and of other things close at hand, living and dead.

— Sebastian Smee, *Washington Post*, 6 Oct. 2022

The bar is also *proximate* to show business haunt La Poubelle and improv theater Upright Citizens Brigade.

— Matt Donnelly, *Variety*, 17 Mar. 2023

Scholarly theories of modes of inquiry are often totally inappropriate for *proximate* political policy discussions.

— Razib Khan, *Discover Magazine*, 29 Dec. 2011

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These examples are programmatically compiled from various online sources to illustrate current usage of the word 'proximate.' Any opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#) about these examples.

Word History

Etymology

Latin *proximatus*, past participle of *proximare* to approach, from *proximus* nearest, next, superlative of *prope* near — more at [APPROACH](#)

First Known Use

1661, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *proximate* was in 1661



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proximate

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prox-i-mate ('prāk-sə-mət »)

- 1 **a** : very near
b : next, preceding, or following
especially : relating to or being a proximate cause
 - 2 : determined by proximate analysis
 - 3 : **PROXIMAL** sense 1b
- **proximately** *adverb*

Legal Definition

proximate *adjective*

prox-i-mate ('prāk-sə-mət »)

- 1 : next immediately preceding or following (as in a chain of causation, events, or effects) : being or leading to a particular especially foreseeable result without intervention
→ see also **PROXIMATE CAUSE** at **CAUSE** sense 1
 - 2 : very or relatively close or near
would be sufficiently *proximate* to the commencement of the defendant's trial
— *Johnson v. New Jersey*, 384 U.S. 719 (1966)
- **proximately** *adverb*

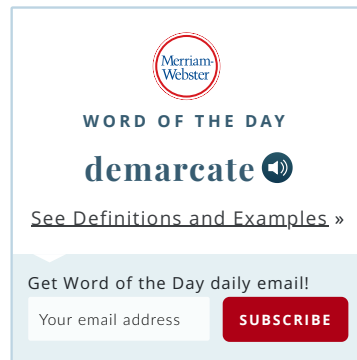
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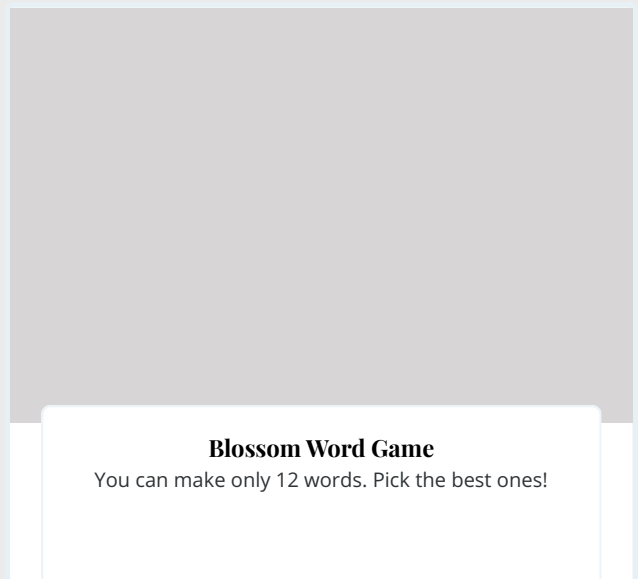
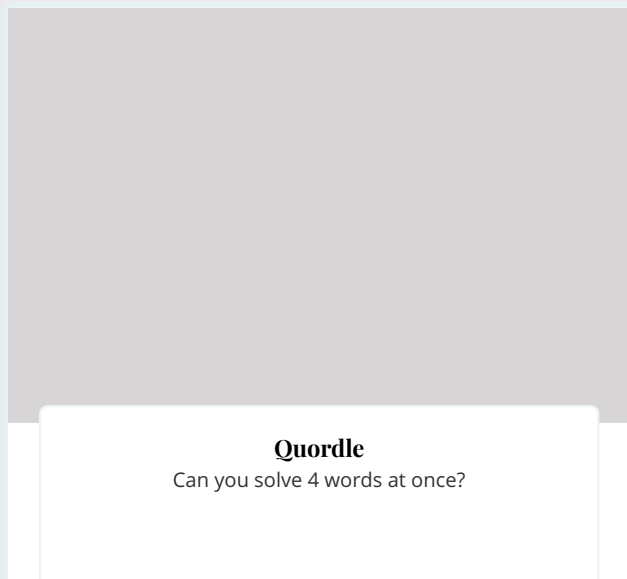
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