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use, esp. as a temporary or makeshift measure: *many of these stones have been pressed into service as gateposts*. ■ historical force (a man) to enlist in the army or navy.

► **n.** historical a forcible enlistment of men, esp. for the navy.

– **ORIGIN** late 16th cent.: alteration (by association with **PRESS**) of obsolete *prest* 'pay given on enlistment, enlistment by such payment,' from Old French *prest* 'loan, advance pay,' based on Latin *praestare* 'provide.'

press a-gent ► **n.** a person employed to organize advertising and publicity in the press on behalf of an organization or well-known person.

press-board /'pres,bɔ:d/ ► **n.** a hard, dense kind of board with a smooth finish, typically made from wood or textile pulp or laminated wastepaper, and used as an electrical insulator and for making light furniture.

press-book /'presbʊk/ ► **n.** 1 a book of press cuttings.

2 a booklet or leaflet put together by a movie producer to publicize a new motion picture.

press box ► **n.** an area reserved for journalists at a sports event.

Press-burg /'presbɜ:g/ German name for **BRATISLAVA**.

press card ► **n.** an official authorization carried by a reporter, esp. one that gives admission to an event.

press clipping ► **n.** a paragraph or short article cut out of a newspaper or magazine.

press conference ► **n.** an interview given to journalists by a prominent person in order to make an announcement or answer questions.

press-er foot ► **n.** the footplate of a sewing machine that holds the fabric down onto the part that feeds it under the needle.

press fit ► **n.** an interference fit between two parts in which one is forced under pressure into a slightly smaller hole in the other.

– **DERIVATIVES** **press-fit-ted** **adj.**

press gal-ler-y ► **n.** a place reserved for journalists observing the proceedings in a legislature or court of law.

press gang ► **n.** historical a body of men employed to enlist men forcibly into service in the army or navy.

► **v.** [with obj.] (**press-gang**) chiefly historical forcibly enlist (someone) into service in the army or navy. ■ (**press-gang someone into**) force someone to do something: *we press-ganged Simon into playing.*

press-ing /'presɪŋ/ ► **adj.** (Of a problem, need, or situation) requiring quick or immediate action or attention: *inflation was the most pressing problem | he had pressing business in Albany*. ■ (Of an invitation) strongly expressed.

► **n.** a thing made by the application of force or weight, esp. a phonograph record. ■ a series of such things made at one time: *the first pressing of the live album*. ■ an act or instance of applying force or weight to something: *pure-grade olive oil is the product of the second or third pressings*.

– **DERIVATIVES** **press-ing-ly** **adv.**

press kit ► **n.** a package of promotional material provided to members of the press to brief them, esp. about a product, service, or candidate.

press-man /'pres,mən,man/ ► **n.** (pl. **pressmen**) 1 chiefly Brit. a journalist.

2 a person who operates a printing press.

press-mark /'pres,mɑ:k/ ► **n.** chiefly Brit. a call number.

pres-sor /'presə/ ► **adj.** [attrib.] Physiology producing an increase in blood pressure by stimulating constriction of the blood vessels: *a pressor response*.

press re-lease ► **n.** an official statement issued to newspapers giving information on a particular matter.

press run ► **n.** the operation of a printing press for a single job (the number or entire set of items produced in such an operation): *the paper is increasing its press run from 75,000 to 95,000 copies*.

press time ► **n.** the moment when a magazine or other publication goes to press.

press-up ► **n.** British term for **PUSHUP**.

pres-sure /'presʃə/ ► **n.** 1 the continuous physical force exerted on or against an object by something in contact with it: *the slight extra pressure he applied to her hand*. ■ the force exerted per unit area: *gas can be fed to the turbines at a pressure of around 250 psi*.

2 the use of persuasion, influence, or intimidation to make someone do something: *the proposals put pressure on Britain to drop its demand | the many pressures on girls to worry about their looks*. ■ the influence or effect of someone or something: *oil prices came under some downward pressure*. ■ the feeling of stressful urgency caused by the necessity of doing or achieving something, esp. with limited

time: *you need to be able to work under pressure and not get flustered | some offenders might find prison a refuge against the pressures of the outside world*.

► **v.** [with obj.] attempt to persuade or coerce (someone) into doing something: *it might now be possible to pressure him into resigning* | [with obj. and infinitive] *she pressured her son to accept a job offer from the bank*. – **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French, from Latin *pressura*, from *press-* 'pressed,' from the verb *premere* (see **PRESS**).

pres-sure cook-er ► **n.** an airtight pot in which food can be cooked quickly under steam pressure.

■ a highly stressful situation or assignment: *the conformist pressure cooker of high school*.

– **DERIVATIVES** **pres-sure-cook** **v.**

pres-sure gauge ► **n.** an instrument indicating pressure: *an oil pressure gauge*.

pres-sure group ► **n.** a group that tries to influence public policy in the interest of a particular cause: *an environmental pressure group*.

pres-sure hull ► **n.** the inner hull of a submarine, in which approximately atmospheric pressure is maintained when the vessel is submerged.

pres-sure lamp ► **n.** a portable oil or kerosene lamp in which the fuel is forced up into the mantle or burner by air pressure in the reservoir, which can be increased by pumping with a plunger.

pres-sure point ► **n.** a point on the surface of the body sensitive to pressure. ■ a point where an artery can be pressed against a bone to inhibit bleeding.

pres-sure suit ► **n.** an inflatable suit that protects the wearer against low pressure, e.g., when flying at a high altitude.

pres-sure ves-sel ► **n.** a container designed to hold material at high pressures. ■ an enclosed structure containing a nuclear reactor core immersed in pressurized coolant.

pres-sur-ize /'presʃə,rɪz/ ► **v.** [with obj.] 1 produce or maintain raised pressure artificially in (a gas or its container): *the mixture was pressurized to 1,900 atmospheres* | (as **adj.** **pressurized**) *a pressurized can*. ■ maintain a tolerable atmospheric pressure in (an aircraft cabin) at a high altitude: (as **adj.** **pressurized**) *a pressurized cabin*.

2 attempt to persuade or coerce (someone) into doing something: *the protests were an attempt to pressurize the government into bringing an end to the violence* | [with obj. and infinitive] *people had been pressurized to vote*.

– **DERIVATIVES** **pres-sur-i-za-tion** /'presʃə'rɪzəʃən/ **n.**

pres-sur-ized wa-ter re-actor (abbr.: **PWR**) ► **n.** a nuclear reactor in which the fuel is uranium oxide clad in zircaloy and the coolant and moderator is water maintained at high pressure so that it does not boil at the operating temperature of the reactor.

press-work /'pres,wɜ:k/ ► **n.** 1 the process of using a printing press. ■ printed matter, esp. with regard to its quality.

2 the shaping of metal by pressing or drawing it into a shaped hollow die.

Pres-ter John /'prestə'jɒn/ a legendary medieval Christian king of Asia (and later, of Ethiopia), said to have defeated the Muslims and to be destined to bring help to the Holy Land.

– **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *prestre Jehan*, from medieval Latin *presbyter Johannes* 'priest John.'

pres-ti-dig-i-ta-tion /'prestə,dɪjə'tæʃən/ ► **n.** formal magic tricks performed as entertainment.

– **DERIVATIVES** **pres-ti-dig-i-ta-tor** /-dɪjə'tɑ:tə/ **n.**

– **ORIGIN** mid 19th cent.: from French, from *preste* 'nimble' + Latin *digitus* 'finger' + **-ATION**.

pres-tige /'pres'tɪʒ, -tēj/ ► **n.** widespread respect and admiration felt for someone or something on the basis of a perception of their achievements or quality: *he experienced a tremendous increase in prestige following his victory*. ■ [as modifier] denoting something that arouses such respect or admiration: *prestige wines*.

– **ORIGIN** mid 17th cent. (in the sense 'illusion, conjuring trick'): from French, literally 'illusion, glamour,' from late Latin *praestigium* 'illusion,' from Latin *praestigiae* (plural) 'conjuring tricks.' The transference of meaning occurred by way of the sense 'dazzling influence, glamour,' at first depreciatory.

pres-tige pric-ing ► **n.** the practice of pricing goods at a high level in order to give the appearance of quality.

pres-tig-i-ous /pre'stɪjəs, -stē-/ ► **adj.** inspiring respect and admiration; having high status: *a prestigious academic post*.

– **DERIVATIVES** **pres-tig-i-ous-ly** **adv.**, **pres-tig-i-ous-ness** **n.**

– **ORIGIN** mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'practicing legerdemain'): from late Latin *praestigiosus*, from *praestigiae* 'conjuring tricks.' The current sense dates from the early 20th cent.

pres-tis-si-mo /pre'stɪsə,mō/ **Music** ► **adv.** & **adj.** (esp. as a direction) in a very quick tempo.

► **n.** (pl. **prestissimos**) a movement or passage marked to be performed in a very quick tempo.

– **ORIGIN** Italian, superlative of *presto* 'quick, quickly' (see **PRESTO**).

pres-to /'prestō/ ► **adv.** & **adj.** **Music** (esp. as a direction) in a quick tempo.

► **n.** (pl. **prestos**) **Music** a movement or passage marked to be performed in a quick tempo.

► **exclam.** a phrase announcing the successful completion of a trick, or suggesting that something has been done so easily that it seems to be magic: *just one quick squeeze and presto! A stir fry in seconds*.

– **ORIGIN** Italian, 'quick, quickly,' from late Latin *praestus* 'ready,' from Latin *praesto* 'at hand.'

Pres-ton /'prestən/ a city in northwestern England, the administrative center of the county of Lancashire, on the Ribble River; pop. 165,600 (est. 2009). It was the site in the 18th century of the first English cotton mills.

Pres-ton-pans, Bat-tle of /,prestən'panz/ a battle in 1745 near the town of Prestonpans just east of Edinburgh, Scotland, the first major engagement of the Jacobite uprising of 1745–46. The Jacobites routed the Hanoverians, leaving the way clear for Charles Edward Stuart's subsequent invasion of England.

pre-stressed /pre'strest/ ► **adj.** strengthened by the application of stress during manufacture, esp. (of concrete) by means of rods or wires inserted under tension before the material is set.

– **DERIVATIVES** **pre-stress-ing** /-stresɪŋ/ **n.**

pre-sum-a-bly /pri'zʊməblē/ ► **adv.** [sentence adverb] used to convey that what is asserted is very likely though not known for certain: *the Yakima Indians presumably came from Asia by way of the Bering Strait*.

pre-sume /pri'zʊm/ ► **v.** 1 [with clause] suppose that something is the case on the basis of probability: *I presumed that the man had been escorted from the building* | [with obj. and complement] *the two men were presumed dead when the wreck of their boat was found*. ■ take for granted that something exists or is the case: *the argument presumes that only one person can do the work* | [with obj.] *the task demands skills that cannot be presumed and therefore require proper training*.

2 [no obj., with infinitive] be audacious enough to do something: *kindly don't presume to issue me orders in my own house*. ■ [no obj.] make unjustified demands; take liberties: *forgive me if I have presumed*. ■ [no obj.] (**presume on/upon**) unjustifiably regard (something) as entitling one to privileges: *she knew he regarded her as his protégée, but was determined not to presume on that*.

– **DERIVATIVES** **pre-sume-a-ble** **adj.**

– **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French *presumer*, from Latin *praesumere* 'anticipate' (in late Latin 'take for granted'), from *prae* 'before' + *sumere* 'take.'

pre-sum-ing /pri'zʊmɪŋ/ ► **adj.** archaic presumptuous.

– **DERIVATIVES** **pre-sum-ing-ly** **adv.**

pre-sump-tion /pri'zʊmpʃən/ ► **n.** 1 an act or instance of taking something to be true or adopting a particular attitude toward something, esp. at the start of a chain of argument or action: *the presumption of guilt has changed to a presumption of innocence*. ■ an idea that is taken to be true, and often used as the basis for other ideas, although it is not known for certain: *underlying presumptions about human nature*. ■ chiefly Law an attitude adopted in law or as a matter of policy toward an action or proposal in the absence of acceptable reasons to the contrary: *the planning policy shows a general presumption in favor of development*.

2 behavior perceived as arrogant, disrespectful, and transgressing the limits of what is permitted or appropriate: *he lifted her off the ground and she was enraged at his presumption*.

– **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *presumption*, from Latin *praesumptio(n)* 'anticipation,' from the verb *praesumere* (see **PRESUME**).

pre-sump-tive /pri'zʊmptɪv/ ► **adj.** of the nature of a presumption; presumed in the absence of further information: *a presumptive diagnosis*. ■ Law

PRONUNCIATION KEY ə ago, up; ər over, fur; a hat; ā ate; ā car; e let; ē see; i fit; ī by; NG sing; ō go; ô law, for; oi law; ō good; ōo goo; ou out; TH thin; TH then; ZH vision

–ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from late Latin *praesentatio* (n-), from Latin *praesentare* 'place before' (see **PRESENT**).

pres-en-ta-tion graph-ics **PRESENTATION SOFTWARE**.

pres-en-ta-tion soft-ware ► n. software used to create a sequence of text and graphics, and often audio and video, to accompany a speech or public presentation. Also called **PRESENTATION GRAPHICS**.

pres-en-ta-tive /pri'zentatɪv/ ► adj. historical (of a benefice) to which a patron has the right of presentation.

–ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: probably from medieval Latin, based on Latin *praesentare* (see **PRESENT**).

pres-ent-day ► adj. [attrib.] of or relating to the current period of time: *present-day technological developments*.

pres-en-tee /prezən'teɪ, pri'zen'teɪ/ ► n. a person nominated or recommended for an office or position, esp. a church benefice.

–ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from Anglo-Norman French, literally 'presented', from the verb *presenter* (see **PRESENT**).

pres-en-tient /pre'senchənt/ ► adj. rare having a presentiment.

–ORIGIN early 19th cent.: from Latin *praesentient-* 'perceiving beforehand', from the verb *praesentire*, from *prae* 'before' + *sentire* 'to feel'.

pres-en-ti-ment /pri'zentəmənt/ ► n. an intuitive feeling about the future, esp. one of foreboding: *a presentiment of disaster*.

–ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from obsolete French *présentiment*.

pres-ent-ism /prezentɪzəm/ ► n. uncritical adherence to present-day attitudes, esp. the tendency to interpret past events in terms of modern values and concepts.

–DERIVATIVES **pres-en-tist** adj.

pres-ent-ly /prezəntli/ ► adv. **1** after a short time; soon: *this will be examined in more detail presently*. **2** at the present time; now: *there are presently 1,128 people on the waiting list*.

USAGE In the pain will lessen presently, the meaning of *presently* is 'soon.' In limited resources are presently available, the meaning is 'at this moment, now.' Both senses date back to the Middle Ages, but the second sense fell into disfavor between the 17th and 20th centuries. Although some traditionalists still object to it, the 'now' sense is widely used and generally regarded as acceptable standard English.

pres-ent-ment /pri'zentmənt/ ► n. Law, chiefly historical a formal presentation of information to a court, esp. by a sworn jury regarding an offense or other matter.

–ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *presentement*, from *presenter* 'place before' (see **PRESENT**).

pres-ent par-ti-ci-p-le ► n. Grammar the form of a verb, ending in *-ing* in English, which is used in forming continuous tenses, e.g., in *I'm thinking*, alone in nonfinite clauses, e.g., in *sitting here*, *I haven't a care in the world*, as a noun, e.g., in *good thinking*, and as an adjective, e.g., in *running water*.

pres-ent val-ue (also **net present value**) ► n. Finance the value in the present of a sum of money, in contrast to some future value it will have when it has been invested at compound interest.

pres-er-va-tion /prezər'vəʃən/ ► n. the action of preserving something: *the preservation of the city's green spaces* | *food preservation*. ■ the state of being preserved, esp. to a specified degree: *the homestead is in a fine state of preservation*.

–ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from medieval Latin *praeservatio* (n-), from late Latin *praeservare* 'to keep' (see **PRESERVE**).

pres-er-va-tion-ist /prezər'vəʃənɪst/ ► n. a supporter or advocate of the preservation of something, esp. of historic buildings and artifacts.

pre-serv-a-tive /pri'zərvətɪv/ ► n. a substance used to preserve foodstuffs, wood, or other materials against decay.

► adj. acting to preserve something: *the preservative effects of freezing*.

–ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from medieval Latin *praeservativus*, from late Latin *praeservat-* 'kept', from the verb *praeservare* (see **PRESERVE**).

pre-serve /pri'zərv/ ► v. [with obj.] maintain (something) in its original or existing state: *all records of the past were zealously preserved* | (as adj. **preserved**) *a magnificently preserved monastery*. ■ retain (a condition or state of affairs): *a fight to preserve local democracy*. ■ maintain or keep alive (a memory or quality): *the film has preserved all the qualities of the novel*. ■ keep safe from harm or injury: *a place for preserving endangered*

species. ■ treat or refrigerate (food) to prevent its decomposition or fermentation. ■ prepare (fruit) for long-term storage by boiling it with sugar: (as adj. **preserved**) *those sweet preserved fruits associated with Cremona*. ■ keep (game or an area where game is found) undisturbed to allow private hunting or shooting.

► **n. 1** (usu. **preserves**) food made with fruit preserved in sugar, such as jam or marmalade: *home-made preserves*.

2 a sphere of activity regarded as being reserved for a particular person or group: *the civil service became the preserve of the educated middle class*.

3 a place where game is protected and kept for private hunting or shooting.

–DERIVATIVES **pre-serv-a-ble** adj., **pre-serv-er** n.

–ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'keep safe from harm'): from Old French *preserver*, from late Latin *praeservare*, from *prae-* 'before, in advance' + *servare* 'to keep'.

pre-served lem-on /pri'zərvd/ ► n. lemons or lemon slices preserved in salt and lemon juice, used as an ingredient in Moroccan cooking.

pre-serv-ice /'pre'sərvəs/ ► adj. of or relating to the period before a person takes a job that requires training, esp. in teaching: *preservice training*.

pre-set /pre'set/ ► v. (**presets, presetting**; past and past participle **preset**) [with obj.] (usu. as adj. **preset**) set or adjust (a value that controls the operation of a device) in advance of its use: *the water is heated quickly to a preset temperature*.

► **n.** a control on electronic equipment or on software that is set or adjusted beforehand to facilitate use.

pre-shrunk /pre'shʁʌŋk/ ► adj. (of a fabric or garment) having undergone a shrinking process during manufacture to prevent further shrinking in use.

–DERIVATIVES **pre-shrink** /-'shʁɪŋk/ v.

pre-side /pri'zɪd/ ► v. [no obj.] **1** be in the position of authority in a meeting or gathering: *Bishop Herberner presided at the meeting* | (as adj. **presiding**) *the sentence imposed by the presiding judge*. ■ (**preside over**) be in charge of (a place or situation): *he presided over a period of great budgetary recklessness*.

2 (**preside at**) play (a musical instrument, esp. a keyboard instrument) at a public gathering.

–ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from French *présider*, from Latin *praesidere*, from *prae* 'before' + *sedere* 'sit'.

pres-i-den-cy /prez(ə)'dɒnsə, 'prezə,dənsə/ ► n. (pl. **presidencies**) the office of president: *the presidency of the US*. ■ the period of this: *the liberal climate that existed during Carter's presidency*. ■ Christian Church the role of the priest or minister who conducts a Eucharist. ■ (also **First Presidency**) (in the Mormon church) a council of three officers forming the highest administrative body.

–ORIGIN late 16th cent.: from medieval Latin *praesidentia*, from *praesidere* 'sit before' (see **PRESIDE**).

pres-i-dent /prez(ə)'dɒnt, 'prezə,dənt/ ► n. **1** the elected head of a republican state: *the Irish president* | [as title] *President Kennedy*. ■ the head of a society, council, or other organization: *the president of the European Community*. ■ the head of a college or university. ■ the head of a company.

2 Christian Church the celebrant at a Eucharist.

–DERIVATIVES **pres-i-den-tial** /prezə'denʃəl/ adj., **pres-i-den-tial-ly** /prezə'denʃəli/ adv., **pres-i-dent-ship** /-'ʃɪp/ n. (archaic).

–ORIGIN late Middle English: via Old French from Latin *praesident-* 'sitting before' (see **PRESIDE**).

pres-i-dent-e-lect ► n. (pl. **presidents-elect**) a person who has been elected president but has not yet taken up office.

Pres-i-den-tial Med-al of Free-dom /prezə'denʃəl/ ► n. (in the US) a medal constituting the highest award that can be given to a civilian in peacetime.

Pres-i-den-tial Range a range in northern New Hampshire's White Mountains that includes Mount Washington, which, at 6,288 feet (1,918 m), is the highest peak in the northeastern US.

pres-i-dent pro tem-po-re /'prɒ'tempa,rē/ (also **president pro tem** /'prɒ'tem/) ► n. a high-ranking senator of the majority party who presides over the US Senate in the absence of the vice president.

pre-sid-i-o /pri'sidē,ō, -sēdē/ ► n. (pl. **presidios**) (in Spain and Spanish America) a fortified military settlement.

–ORIGIN Spanish, from Latin *praesidium* 'garrison'.

pre-sid-i-um /pri'sidēəm, -zɪd-/ (also **praesidium**) ► n. a standing executive committee in a communist country. ■ (**Presidium**) the committee of this type in the former Soviet Union, which functioned as the legislative authority when the Supreme Soviet was not sitting.

–ORIGIN 1920s: from Russian *prezidium*, from Latin *praesidium* 'protection, garrison' (see **PRESIDE**).

Pres-ley /'prezlə, 'pres-/ **Elvis (Aaron)** (1935–77), US singer; known as the **King of Rock and Roll**. He was the dominant personality of early rock and roll with songs such as "Heartbreak Hotel," "Don't Be Cruel," and "Hound Dog" and was noted for the frank sexuality of his performances. He also made numerous movies, including *King Creole* (1958), and became a cult figure after his death.

pre-So-crat-ic ► adj. of, relating to, or denoting the speculative philosophers active in the ancient Greek world in the 6th and 5th centuries BC (before the time of Socrates), who attempted to find rational explanations for natural phenomena. They included Parmenides, Anaxagoras, Empedocles, and Heraclitus.

► **n.** a pre-Socratic philosopher.

pre-sort /pre'sɔrt/ ► v. [with obj.] sort outgoing mail by zip code in order to take advantage of a cheaper rate of postage.

press /pres/ ► v. **1** move or cause to move into a position of contact with something by exerting continuous physical force: [with obj.] *he pressed his face to the glass* | [no obj.] *her body pressed against his*. ■ [with obj.] exert continuous physical force on (something), typically in order to operate a device or machine: *he pressed a button and the doors slid open*. ■ [with obj.] squeeze (someone's arm or hand) as a sign of affection. ■ [no obj.] move in a specified direction by pushing: *the mob was still pressing forward*. ■ (of an enemy or opponent) attack persistently and fiercely: [no obj.] *their enemies pressed in on all sides* | [with obj.] *two assailants were pressing Agrippa*. ■ [no obj.] (**press on/ahead**) continue in one's action: *he stubbornly pressed on with his work*. ■ [with obj.] Weightlifting raise (a specified weight) by first lifting it to shoulder height and then gradually pushing it upward above the head. **2** [with obj.] apply pressure to (something) to flatten, shape, or smooth it, typically by ironing: *she pressed her nicest blouse* | (as adj. **pressed**) *immaculately pressed trousers*. ■ apply pressure to (a flower or leaf) between sheets of paper in order to dry and preserve it. ■ extract (juice or oil) by crushing or squeezing fruit, vegetables, etc.: (as adj. **pressed**) *freshly pressed grape juice*. ■ squeeze or crush (fruit, vegetables, etc.) to extract the juice or oil. ■ manufacture (something, esp. a phonograph record) by molding under pressure.

3 [with obj.] forcefully put forward (an opinion, claim, or course of action): *Rose did not press the point*. ■ make strong efforts to persuade or force (someone) to do or provide something: *when I pressed him for precise figures, he evaded the subject* | [with infinitive] *the marketing directors were pressed to justify their expenditure* | [no obj.] *they continued to press for changes in legislation*. ■ [no obj.] Golf try too hard to achieve distance with a shot, at the risk of inaccuracy. ■ (**press something on/upon**) insist that (someone) accept an offer or gift: *he pressed dinner invitations on her*. ■ [no obj.] (of something, esp. time) be in short supply and so demand immediate action. ■ (**be pressed**) have barely enough of something, esp. time: *I'm very pressed for time*. ■ (**be pressed to do something**) have difficulty doing or achieving something: *they may be hard pressed to keep their promise*.

► **n. 1** a device for applying pressure to something in order to flatten or shape it or to extract juice or oil: *a flower press* | *a wine press*. ■ a machine that applies pressure to a workpiece by means of a tool, in order to punch shapes.

2 a printing press. ■ [often in names] a business that prints or publishes books: *the Clarendon Press*. ■ the process of printing: *the book is ready to go to press*.

3 (**the press**) [treated as sing. or pl.] newspapers or journalists viewed collectively: *the press was notified* | [as modifier] *press coverage*. ■ coverage in newspapers and magazines: *there's no point in demonstrating if you don't get any press* | [in sing.] *the mayor has had a bad press for years*.

4 an act of pressing something: *the system summons medical help at the press of a button*. ■ [in sing.] a closely packed crowd or mass of people or things: *among the press of cars he saw a taxi*. ■ dated pressure of business. ■ Weightlifting an act of raising a weight to shoulder height and then gradually pushing it above the head. ■ Basketball any of various forms of close guarding by the defending team.

5 chiefly Irish Scottish a large cupboard.

–PHRASES **press charges** see **CHARGE**. **press something home** see **HOME**. **press (the) flesh** informal (of a celebrity or politician) greet people by shaking hands.

–ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *presse* (noun), *presser* (verb), from Latin *pressare* 'keep pressing', frequentative of *premere*.

press ² ► v. [with obj.] (**press someone/something into**) put (someone or something) to a specified