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vice in the army or navy; impress. **2a.** To take arbitrarily or by force, especially for public use. **b.** To use in a manner different from the usual or intended, especially in an emergency. **♦ n. 1.** Conscripted or impressed into service, especially into the army or navy. **2.** *Obsolete* An official warrant for impressing men into military service. [Alteration of *obsolete prest*, to hire for military service by advance payment < Middle English, enlistment money, loan < Old French < *prester*, to lend < Medieval Latin *praestāre* < Latin, to furnish < *praestō*, present, at hand; see *ghes-* in App. I.]

press agency *n.* See *news agency*.

press agent *n.* A person employed to arrange advertising and publicity, as for a performer or business. —**press agency** *n.*

press association *n.* See *news agency*.

press-board (prēs'bōrd') *n.* **1.** A heavy glazed paper or pasteboard used especially to cover the platen or cylinder of a printing press. **2.** A small ironing board.

press box *n.* A section for reporters, as in a stadium.

press conference *n.* An interview held for news reporters by a political figure or famous person. Also called *news conference*.

press-er (prēs'ər) *n.* **1.** One who presses clothes. **2.** Any of various devices that apply pressure to a product in manufacturing or canning.

press gang also **press-gang** (prēs'gāng') *n.* A company of men under an officer detailed to force men into military or naval service.

press-gang (prēs'gāng') *tr.v.* -ganged, -gang-ing, -gangs **1.** To force into military or naval service. **2.** To force or coerce: "press-gang a consumer into buying something he doesn't want" (Feona McEwan).

press-ing (prēs'ing) *adj.* **1.** Demanding immediate attention; urgent: a pressing need. See *Synonyms at urgent*. **2.** Very earnest or insistent: a pressing invitation. **♦ n. 1.** The process or an instance of applying pressure. **2.** often *pressings* The material, such as juice or grape skins, produced by or left over after pressing. **3a.** A phonograph record or other recording made at one time. **b.** A group of recordings made at the same time. —**press-ing-ly** *adv.*

press kit *n.* A packaged set of promotional materials, such as photographs and background information, for distribution to the press, as at a news conference or before the release of a new product.

press-man (prēs'mān, -mān') *n.* **1.** A man who operates a printing press. **2.** Chiefly *British* A newspaper reporter.

press-mark (prēs'mārk') *n.* **1.** Printing A notation or figure in the margin of a printed sheet indicating the press on which it was printed. **2.** Chiefly *British* A notation in or on a book indicating where it should be placed in a library.

press of sail *n.* The greatest amount of sail that a ship can carry safely under prevailing conditions. Also called *press of canvas*.

press-or (prēs'ər, -ər) *adj.* Causing an increase in blood pressure. [Late Latin, one who presses < Latin *pressus*, past participle of *premere*, to press; see *PRESS*.]

press release *n.* An announcement of an event, performance, or other newsworthy item that is issued to the press.

press-room (prēs'rōom', -rōom') *n.* The room in a printing or newspaper publishing establishment that contains the presses.

press run or **press-run** (prēs'rūn') *n.* **1.** Continuous operation of a printing press for a specific job. **2.** The number of copies printed in one such continuous operation.

press secretary *n.* One who officially manages the public affairs and press conferences of a public figure.

press-time (prēs'tīm') *n.* The time at which a publication, especially a newspaper, is submitted for printing.

press-sure (prēs'hər) *n.* **1a.** The act of pressing. **b.** The condition of being pressed. **2.** The application of continuous force by one body on another that it is touching; compression. **3.** *Abbr. P* Physics Force applied uniformly over a surface, measured as force per unit area. **4.** Meteorology Atmospheric pressure. **5a.** A compelling or constraining influence, such as persuasion or negative attitudes, on the mind or will: *felt pressure to conform*; *peer-group pressure*. **b.** An influence acting as a source of distress or hardship: *economic pressures forcing people to work two jobs*. **c.** Sports Sustained, effective play that puts an opponent at a disadvantage: *Defensive pressure forced the quarterback to throw interceptions*. **d.** The condition of being subjected to physical, mental, social, or economic distress: *doesn't work well under pressure*. **6.** A physical sensation produced by compression of a part of the body. **7.** Archaic A mark made by application of force or weight; an impression. **♦ tr.v.** -sured, -sur-ing, -sures **1.** To force, or try to force, as by influence or persuasion: *The salesman pressured us to buy the car right away*. **2.** To pressurize. **3.** To pressure-cook. [Middle English < Old French < Latin *pressūra* < *pressus*, past participle of *premere*, to press; see *per-* in App. I.]

pressure anemometer *n.* Any of various anemometers, such as pressure-tube or plate anemometers, that use the pressure exerted by the wind to push against a resistant element whose displacement or distortion serves as a measure of the wind velocity.

pressure cabin *n.* A pressurized section of an aircraft.

pressure-cook (prēs'hər-kōok') *tr.v.* -cooked, -cook-ing, -cooks To cook in a pressure cooker.

pressure cooker *n.* **1.** An airtight metal pot that uses steam under pressure at high temperature to cook food quickly. **2.** Informal A situation or an atmosphere of difficulty, stress, or anxiety: "placing children into social, educational pressure cookers" (Fred M. Hechinger).

pressure drag *n.* Drag caused by increased pressure on the front and decreased pressure on the rear of an object moving through a fluid medium such as air or water or of a stationary object around which the medium passes.

pressure gauge *n.* **1.** A device for measuring the pressure of a gas or

liquid. **2.** A device that is used for measuring the pressure of explosions.

pressure group *n.* An interest group that endeavors to influence public policy and especially governmental legislation, regarding its particular concerns and priorities.

pressure point *n.* **1.** Any of several points on the body at which an underlying artery can be pressed against a bone to stop distal bleeding. **2.** An area on the skin that is highly sensitive to the application of pressure.

pressure suit *n.* A garment that is worn in high-altitude aircraft or in spacecraft to compensate for low-pressure conditions.

pres-sure-tube anemometer (prēs'hər-tōob', -tyōob') *n.* Any of various pressure anemometers that measure wind speed by registering the displacement of liquid in a U-shaped tube that has one end exposed to the wind.

pres-sur-ize (prēs'hər-iz') *tr.v.* -ized, -iz-ing, -izes **1.** To maintain normal air pressure in (an enclosure, as an aircraft or submarine). **2.** To cause to have or function at greater than normal air or gas pressure: *The stairwells are pressurized to prevent smoke from entering during a fire*. **3.** To put (gas or liquid) under a greater than normal pressure. **4.** Informal To subject to psychological, political, or other nonphysical pressure: *pressurized the government to enact reforms*. —**pres'sur-i-za'tion** (-ər-i-zā'shən) *n.* —**pres'sur-iz'er** *n.*

press-work (prēs'wŭrk') *n.* **1.** Management or operation of a printing press. **2.** The matter printed by such a press.

Pres-ter John (prēs'tər) *n.* A legendary figure in Europe during the Middle Ages, who was thought to rule over a large Christian kingdom in Ethiopia or Central Asia. [Middle English *prestre*, priest < Old French < Late Latin *presbyter*; see *PRESBYTER*.]

pre-ster-num (prē-stŭr'nəm) *n.* See *manubrium* (sense 1a).

pres-ti-dig-i-ta-tion (prēs'ti-dij'i-tā'shən) *n.* **1.** Performance of or skill in performing magic or conjuring tricks with the hands; sleight of hand. **2.** Skill or cleverness, especially in deceiving others. [French (influenced by *prestigiateur*, juggler, conjurer < *prestige*, illusion) < *prestidigitateur*, conjurer: *preste*, nimble (< Italian *presto*; see *PRESTO*) + Latin *digitus*, finger; see *DIGIT*.] —**pres'ti-dig-i-ta'tor** *n.*

pres-tige (prē-stēzh', -stēj') *n.* **1.** The level of respect at which a person or thing is regarded by others; standing: *an act that boosted his prestige*; *a job with low prestige*. **2.** Good reputation; honor: *Her accomplishments lent a lot of prestige to the college*. **3.** Great respect or importance: *Doctors are usually treated with prestige*. [French, illusion < Latin *praestigiae*, tricks, probably alteration of **praestrigiae* < *praestringere*, to touch, blunt, blind: *prae-*, pre- + *stringere*, to draw tight; see *streig-* in App. I.]

pres-ti-gious (prē-stē'jəs, -stij'əs) *adj.* Having prestige; esteemed. —**pres'ti-gious-ly** *adv.* —**pres'ti-gious-ness** *n.*

pres-tis-si-mo (prē-stis'si-mō') *Music adv. & adj.* In as fast a tempo as possible. Used chiefly as a direction. **♦ n., pl. -mos** A prestissimo passage or movement. [Italian, superlative of *presto*, presto; see *PRESTO*.]

pres-to (prēs'tō) *adv.* **1.** Music In a very fast tempo, usually considered to be faster than *allegro* but slower than *prestissimo*. Used chiefly as a direction. **2.** So suddenly that magic seems involved; right away. **♦ n., pl. -tos** Music A passage or movement that is performed presto. [Italian < Late Latin *praestus*, quick < Latin *praestō*, at hand; see *ghes-* in App. I.] —**pres'to** *adj.*

Pres-ton (prēs'tən) A city of northwest England north-northeast of Liverpool. The Jacobites surrendered here after an uprising in 1715.

pre-sum-a-ble (pri-zōō'mā-bəl) *adj.* Capable of being presumed or taken for granted; reasonable as a supposition: *presumable causes of the disaster*. —**pre-sum'a-bly** *adv.*

pre-sume (pri-zōōm') *v.* -sumed, -sum-ing, -sumes —*tr.* **1.** To take for granted as being true in the absence of proof to the contrary: "I presume you're tired after the long ride" (Edith Wharton). **2.** To constitute reasonable evidence for assuming; appear to prove: *A signed hotel bill presumes occupancy of a room*. **3.** To venture without authority or permission; dare: *He presumed to invite himself to dinner*. —*intr.* **1.** To take for granted that something is true or factual; make a supposition. **2.** To act presumptuously or take unwarranted advantage of something: *Don't presume on their hospitality*. [Middle English *presumen* < Old French *presumer* < Late Latin *praesumere* < Latin, to anticipate: *prae-*, pre- + *sumere*, to take; see *em-* in App. I.] —**pre-sum'ed-ly** (-zōō'mid-lē) *adv.* —**pre-sum'er** *n.*

pre-sum-ing (pri-zōō'ming) *adj.* Having or showing excessive and arrogant self-confidence; presumptuous. —**pre-sum'ing-ly** *adv.*

pre-sump-tion (pri-zūmp'shən) *n.* **1.** Behavior or attitude that is boldly arrogant or offensive; effrontery: *She was offended at the stranger's presumption in speaking in such an casual manner*. **2.** The act of presuming or accepting something as true: *the presumption of innocence of the accused*. **3.** A condition or basis for accepting or presuming something. **4.** Law A conclusion applied by law as to the correctness of some fact, ordinarily subject to rebuttal by contrary evidence. [Middle English *presumpcion* < Old French < Late Latin *praesumptio*, *praesumptiōn-* < Latin, anticipation < *praesumptus*, past participle of *praesumere*, to anticipate; see *PRESUME*.]

pre-sump-tive (pri-zūmp'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Based on a presumption; presumed: *the party's presumptive nominee*. **2.** Providing a reasonable basis for belief or acceptance: *presumptive evidence*. **3. Usage Problem Presumptuous: *presumptive behavior*. —**pre-sump'tive-ly** *adv.***

♦ **USAGE NOTE** *Presumptive* is sometimes used with the meaning of "arrogant, presumptuous," as in *It was very presumptive of you to speak to the senator in such an offhand manner*. The Usage Panel overwhelmingly disapproves of this usage, with 83 percent rejecting the previous sentence and a similar example as well in our 2009 survey.

ā	pat	oi	boy
ā	pay	ou	out
ār	care	ōō	took
ā	father	ōōr	lure
ē	pet	ōō	boot
ē	be	ū	cut
ī	pit	ūr	urge
ī	bite	th	thin
ir	pier	th	this
ō	pot	zh	vision
ō	toe	ə	about,
ō	paw	item	
ōr	core		

Stress marks: ' (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dik'shā-nēr'ē)