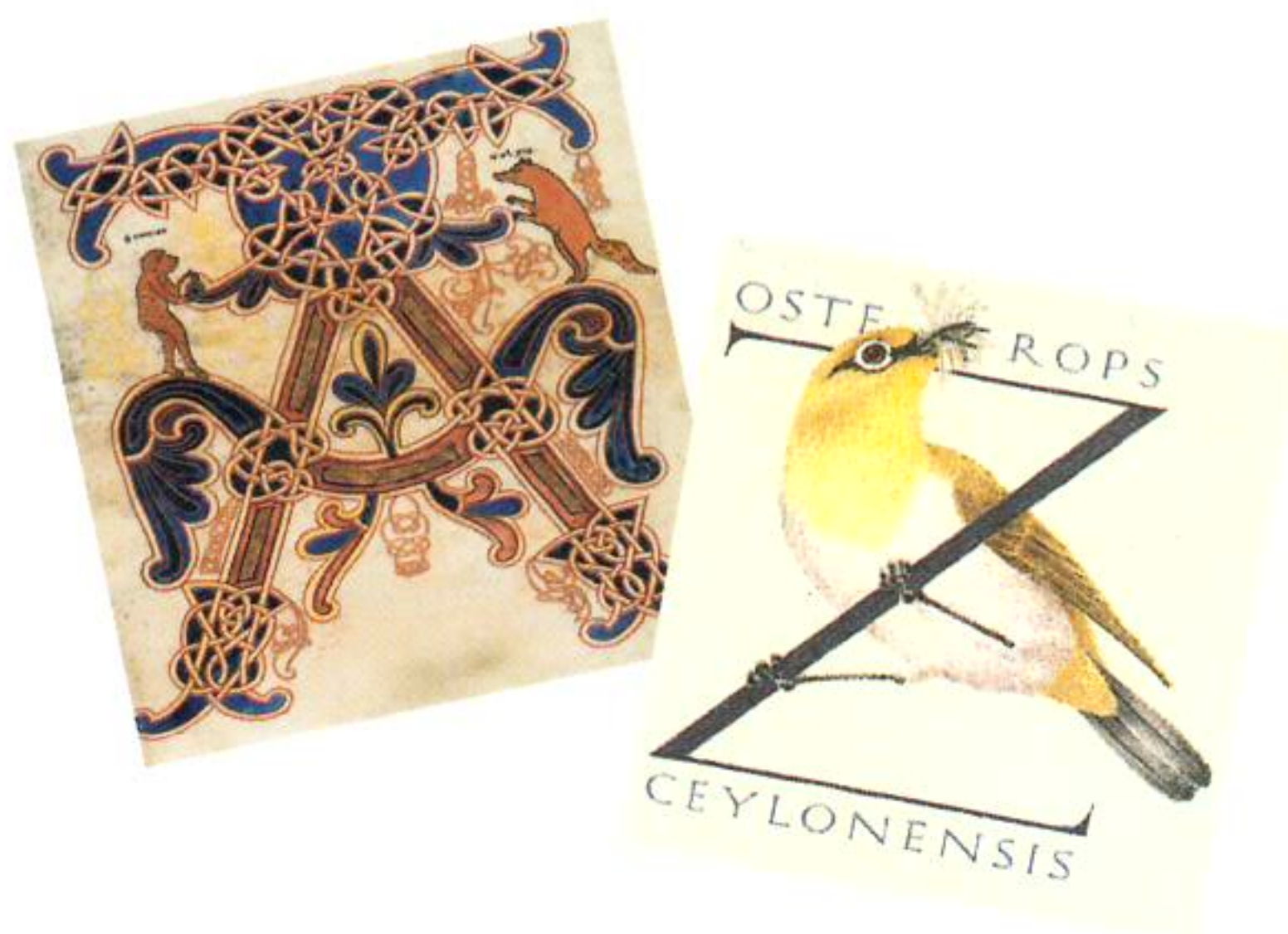


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profile
detail from *Portrait of a Young Woman* by Botticelli

prof (prɒf) *n.* Informal A professor.

pro-fam-i-ly also **pro-fam-i-ly** (prō-fām'ə-lē, -fām'lē) *adj.* Favoring or supporting values held to promote traditional family life, typically values identified with social conservatism.

prof-a-na-tion (prɒf'ə-nā'shən) *n.* The act or an instance of profaning; desecration.

pro-fane (prō-fān', prə-) *adj.* 1. Marked by contempt or irreverence for what is sacred. 2. Nonreligious in subject matter, form, or use; secular: *sacred and profane music*. 3. Not admitted into a body of secret knowledge or ritual; uninitiated. 4. Vulgar; coarse. ❖ *tr.v.* **-fane**, **-fane**, **-fane** 1. To treat with irreverence: *profane the name of God*. 2. To put to an improper, unworthy, or degrading use; abuse: *profaning lovely Spanish words by mispronouncing them*. [Middle English *prophane*, from Old French, from Latin *profānus*, from *prō* *fānō*, in front of the temple: *prō*-, before, outside; see *PRO*-1 + *fānō*, ablative of *fānum*, temple; see *dhēs*- in Appendix I.] —**pro-fan'a-to-ry** (prō-fān'ə-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē, prə-) *adj.* —**pro-fane/ly** *adv.* —**pro-fan'er** *n.*

pro-fan-i-ty (prō-fān'i-tē, prə-) *n., pl. -ties* 1. The condition or quality of being profane. 2a. Abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language. b. The use of such language.

pro-fess (prə-fēs', prō-) *v.* **-fessed**, **-fessing**, **-fesses** —*tr.* 1. To affirm openly; declare or claim: "a physics major [who] professes to be a stickler when it comes to data" (Gina Maranto). 2. To make a pretense of; pretend: "top officials who were deeply involved with the arms sales but later professed ignorance of them" (David Johnston). 3a. To practice as a profession or claim knowledge of: *profess medicine*. b. To teach (a subject) as a professor: *profess literature*. 4. To affirm belief in: *profess Catholicism*. 5. To receive into a religious order or congregation. —*intr.* 1. To make an open affirmation. 2. To take the vows of a religious order or congregation. [Middle English *professen*, to take vows, from Old French *profes*, that has taken a religious vow (from Medieval Latin *professus*, avowed) and from Medieval Latin *professāre*, to administer a vow, both from Latin *professus*, past participle of *profiteri*, to affirm openly: *pro*-, forth; see *PRO*-1 + *fatēri*, to acknowledge; see *bhā*-2 in Appendix I.] —**pro-fess'ed-ly** (-fēs'id-lē) *adv.*

pro-fes-sion (prə-fēsh'ən) *n.* 1a. An occupation or career: "One of the highest compliments a child can pay a parent is to choose his or her profession" (Joan Nathan). b. An occupation, such as law, medicine, or engineering, that requires considerable training and specialized study. c. The body of qualified persons in an occupation or field: *members of the teaching profession*. 2. An act or instance of professing; a declaration. 3. An avowal of faith or belief. 4. A faith or belief: *believers of various professions*.

pro-fes-sion-al (prə-fēsh'ə-nəl) *adj.* 1a. Of, relating to, engaged in, or suitable for a profession: *lawyers, doctors, and other professional people*. b. Conforming to the standards of a profession: *professional behavior*. 2. Engaging in a given activity as a source of livelihood or as a career: *a professional writer*. 3. Performed by persons receiving pay: *professional football*. 4. Having or showing great skill; expert: *a professional repair job*. ❖ *n.* 1. A person following a profession, especially a learned profession. 2. One who earns a living in a given or implied occupation: *hired a professional to decorate the house*. 3. A skilled practitioner; an expert. —**pro-fes'sion-al-ly** *adv.*

pro-fes-sion-al-ism (prə-fēsh'ə-nə-liz'əm) *n.* 1. Professional status, methods, character, or standards. 2. The use of professional performers, as in athletics or in the arts.

pro-fes-sion-al-ize (prə-fēsh'ə-nə-liz') *tr.v.* **-ized**, **-izing**, **-izes** To make professional. —**pro-fes'sion-al-i-za'tion** (-lī-zā'shən) *n.*

pro-fes-sor (prə-fēs'ər) *n.* 1a. A college or university teacher who ranks above an associate professor. b. A teacher or instructor. 2. One who professes. [Middle English *professour*, from Old French *professeur*, from Latin *professor*, from *professus*, past participle of *profiteri*, to profess. See *PROFESS*.] —**pro-fes-so-ri-al** (prō'fī-sōr'ē-əl, -sōr'ē-, prōf'i-) *adj.* —**pro-fes-so-ri-al-ly** *adv.* —**pro-fes/sor-ship** *n.*

pro-fes-sor-ate (prə-fēs'ər-īt) *n.* The rank, office, or term of office of a professor.

pro-fes-so-ri-ate or **pro-fes-so-ri-at** (prō'fī-sōr'ē-ət, -sōr'ē-, prōf'i-) *n.* 1. The rank or office of a professor. 2. College or university professors considered as a group.

prof-fer (prɒf'ər) *tr.v.* **-fered**, **-fering**, **-fers** To offer for acceptance; tender. See synonyms at *offer*. ❖ *n.* The act of proffering; an offer. [Middle English *profren*, from Old French *poroffrir*, *proffrir*: *por*-, forth (from Latin *prō*-; see *PRO*-1) + *offrir*, to offer (from Latin *offerre*; see *OFFER*).] —**prof/fer-er** *n.*

pro-fi-cien-cy (prə-fīsh'ən-sē) *n., pl. -cies* The state or quality of being proficient; competence.

pro-fi-cient (prə-fīsh'ənt) *adj.* Having or marked by an advanced degree of competence, as in an art, vocation, profession, or branch of learning. ❖ *n.* An expert; an adept. [Latin *prōficiēns*, *prōficiēs*-, present participle of *prōficere*, to make progress. See *PROFIT*.] —**pro-fi/cient-ly** *adv.*

Synonyms *proficient, adept, skilled, skillful, expert* These adjectives mean having or showing knowledge, ability, or skill, as in a profession or field of study. *Proficient* implies an advanced degree of competence acquired through training: *is proficient in Greek and Latin*. *Adept* suggests a natural aptitude improved by practice: *became adept at cutting the fabric without using a pattern*. *Skilled* implies sound, thorough competence and often mastery, as in an art, craft, or trade: *a skilled gymnast who won an Olympic medal*. *Skillful* adds to *skilled* the idea of natural dexterity in performance or achievement: *is skillful in the use of the hand loom*. *Expert*

applies to one with consummate skill and command: *an expert violinist who played the sonata flawlessly*.

pro-file (prō'fil') *n.* 1a. A side view of an object or structure, especially of the human head. b. A representation of an object or structure seen from the side. See synonyms at *form*. 2. An outline of an object. See synonyms at *outline*. 3. Degree of exposure to public notice; visibility: *preferred to keep a low profile*. 4. A biographical essay presenting the subject's most noteworthy characteristics and achievements. 5. A formal summary or analysis of data, often in the form of a graph or table, representing distinctive features or characteristics: *a psychological profile of a job applicant*; *a biochemical profile of blood*. 6. Geology A vertical section of soil or rock showing the sequence of the various layers. ❖ *tr.v.* **-filed**, **-fil-ing**, **-files** 1. To draw or shape a profile of. 2. To produce a profile of. [Italian *profilo*, from *profilare*, to draw in outline: *pro*-, forward (from Latin *prō*-; see *PRO*-1) + *filare*, to draw a line (from Medieval Latin *filāre*, to spin, from Latin *filum*, thread; see *g^{wh}*- in Appendix I).] —**pro/fil-er** *n.*

prof-it (prɒf'it) *n.* 1. An advantageous gain or return; benefit. 2. The return received on a business undertaking after all operating expenses have been met. 3a. The return received on an investment after all charges have been paid. Often used in the plural. b. The rate of increase in the net worth of a business enterprise in a given accounting period. c. Income received from investments or property. d. The amount received for a commodity or service in excess of the original cost. ❖ *v.* **-ited**, **-it-ing**, **-its** —*intr.* 1. To make a gain or profit. 2. To derive advantage; benefit: *profiting from the other team's mistakes*. See synonyms at *benefit*. —*tr.* To be beneficial to. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *prōfectus*, from past participle of *prōficere*, make progress, to profit: *prō*-, forward; see *PRO*-1 + *facere*, to make; see *dhē*- in Appendix I.] —**prof/it-less** *adj.*

prof-it-a-ble (prɒf'it-ə-bəl) *adj.* Yielding profit; advantageous or lucrative. See synonyms at *beneficial*. —**prof/it-a-bil/i-ty**, **prof/it-a-ble-ness** *n.* —**prof/it-a-bly** *adv.*

profit and loss *n.* Abbr. **P and L** An account showing net profit and loss over a given period.

profit center *n.* A segment of a business for which costs, revenues, and profits are separately calculated.

prof-it-eer (prɒf'it-ē-ər) *n.* One who makes excessive profits on goods in short supply. ❖ *intr.v.* **-eered**, **-eering**, **-eers** To make excessive profits on goods in short supply.

pro-fit-er-ole (prə-fit'ər-ōl') *n.* A small round cream puff. [French, perhaps diminutive of *profiter*, to profit, from Old French, from *profit*, profit. See *PROFIT*.]

profit sharing *n.* A system by which employees receive a share of the profits of a business enterprise.

prof-li-gate (prɒf'li-gīt, -gāt') *adj.* 1. Given over to dissipation; dissolute. 2. Recklessly wasteful; wildly extravagant. ❖ *n.* A profligate person; a wastrel. [Latin *prōfligātus*, past participle of *prōfligāre*, to ruin, cast down: *prō*-, forward; see *PRO*-1 + *-fligāre*, intensive of *fligere*, to strike down.] —**prof/li-ga-cy** (-gə-sē) *n.* —**prof/li-gate-ly** *adv.*

pro-form or **pro-form** (prō'fōrm') *n.* An item in a sentence, typically a pronoun, verb, or adverb, that substitutes for a constituent phrase or clause, as the words *he* and *so* in the sentence *He said so*, with the pronoun *he* replacing a noun phrase such as *the president* and the adverb *so* replacing a clause such as *that he would leave today*.

pro for-ma (prō fɔr'mə) *adj.* 1. Done as a formality; perfunctory. 2. Provided in advance so as to prescribe form or describe items: *a pro forma copy of a document*. [New Latin *prō fōrmā*: *prō*-, for the sake of + *fōrmā*, ablative of *fōrma*, form.]

pro-found (prə-faʊnd', prō-) *adj.* **-er**, **-est** 1. Situated at, extending to, or coming from a great depth; deep. 2. Coming as if from the depths of one's being: *profound contempt*. 3. Thoroughgoing; far-reaching: *profound social changes*. 4. Penetrating beyond what is superficial or obvious: *a profound insight*. 5. Unqualified; absolute: *a profound silence*. [Middle English *profounde*, from Old French *profond*, from Latin *profundus*: *prō*-, before; see *PRO*-1 + *fundus*, bottom.] —**pro-found-ly** *adv.* —**pro-found-ness** *n.*

pro-fun-di-ty (prə-fūn'dī-tē, prō-) *n., pl. -ties* 1. Great depth. 2. Depth of intellect, feeling, or meaning. 3. Something profound or abstruse. [Middle English *profundite*, from Old French, from Late Latin *profunditas*, from Latin *profundus*, deep. See *PROFOUND*.]

pro-fuse (prə-fyʊs', prō-) *adj.* 1. Plentiful; copious. 2. Giving or given freely and abundantly; extravagant: *were profuse in their compliments*. [Middle English, lavish, from Latin *profusus*, past participle of *profundere*, to pour forth: *pro*-, forth; see *PRO*-1 + *fundere*, to pour; see *gheu*- in Appendix I.] —**pro-fuse-ly** *adv.* —**pro-fuse-ness** *n.*

Synonyms *profuse, exuberant, lavish, lush, luxuriant, prodigal, riotous* These adjectives mean marked by unrestrained abundance: *profuse apologies*; *an exuberant growth of moss*; *lavish praise*; *lush vegetation*; *luxuriant hair*; *a prodigal party giver*; *an artist's riotous use of color*.

Antonym *spare*

pro-fu-sion (prə-fyʊs'zhən, prō-) *n.* 1. The state of being profuse; abundance. 2. Lavish or unrestrained expense; extravagance. 3. A profuse outpouring or quantity: "A profusion of chiles—mild Anaheim to hot jalapeño—perks up everything" (Gene Bourg).

pro-gen-i-tor (prō-jēn'i-tər) *n.* 1. A direct ancestor. See synonyms at *ancestor*. 2. An originator of a line of descent; a precursor. 3. An originator; a founder: *progenitors of the new music*. [Middle English *progenitour*, from Old French *progeniteur*, from Latin *prōgenitor*, from *prō*-