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ISBN-13 978 0550 10185 3	Standard
ISBN-13 978 0550 10311 6	Thumb index

or advocated a truthful, almost rigid, adherence to natural forms and effects. ♦ *adj* of, relating to, reminiscent of or in the style of the Pre-Raphaelites. [*pre-* (1), *Raphael*, and *-ite*]

■ **Pre-Raph'aelism** or **Pre-Raph'aelitism** *n*. **Pre-Raphaelis'tic** or **Pre-Raphaelitis'tic** *adj*. **Pre-Raphaelli'tish** *adj*.

prerelease /*prē-ri-lēs'*/ *n* the release of a cinema film, record, etc before its official date of release; the exhibition of a film so released; anything so released. ♦ *adj* relating to the showing of film before its official public release. [*pre-* (1)]

prerequisite /*prē-rek'wi-zū'*/ *n* a condition or requirement that must previously be satisfied. ♦ *adj* required as a condition of something else. [*pre-* (1)]

prerogative /*pri-rōg'a-tiv'*/ *n* a privilege that is exclusive to a person, group, etc; a right arising out of one's rank, position or office; a faculty peculiar to the nature of any being, eg a human being; the right of voting first (*rare*). ♦ *adj* arising out of or held by prerogative; voting first. [L *praerogātivus* asked first for his vote, from *prae* before others, and *rogāre*, -ātum to ask]

■ **prerog'atived** *adj* (*Shakesp*) having a prerogative. **prerog'atively** *adv*.

□ **Prerogative Court** *n* formerly, a court having jurisdiction over testamentary matters.

■ **royal prerogative** the discretionary rights which a sovereign has by virtue of office, varying from country to country.

prerosion /*prē-rō-zhan'*/ *n* corrosion of a crystal by a solvent forming new faces (*prerosion faces*) on the corners and edges. [L *praerōdere*, -rōsum to gnaw at the tip, from *prae* in front, and *rōdere* to gnaw]

prerupt /*prē-rup't'*/ *adj* broken off; abrupt. [L *praeruptus*, from *prae* in front, and *rumpere* to break]

Pres. *abbrev*: President.

pres. *abbrev*: present.

presa /*prā-sā*, -sə or -zā/ *n* (pl *pre'se* /-sā or -zā/) a symbol (X, S- or S:) used to indicate the points at which successive voice or instrumental parts enter a round, canon, etc. [Ital, an act of taking up]

presage /*pri-sāj'*/ *vt* to portend; to forebode; to warn of as something to come; to forecast; to have a presentiment of; to point out, reveal (*Spenser*). ♦ *vi* to have or utter a foreboding. ♦ *n* /*pres'ij*, formerly also *pri-sāj'*/ an indication of the future; a prognostic; an omen; a foreboding; a presentiment. [L *praesāgium* a foreboding, from *prae* before, and *sāgus* prophetic]

■ **presage'ful** *adj*. **presage'ment** *n* (*obs*). **presa'ger** *n*.

presanctify /*prē-sangk'ti-fi'*/ *vt* to consecrate beforehand. [*pre-* (1)]

■ **presanctific'a'tion** *n*.

presbycusis, presbicusis /*pres-bi-koo'sis'*/, **presbyacusis** or **presbyacusis** /-a-koo'sis'/ (*med*) *n* progressive loss of hearing with advancing old age. [Gr *presbys* old, and *akousis* hearing]

presbyopia /*prez-bi-ō-pi-a'*/ *n* difficulty in accommodating the eye to near vision, long-sightedness, a defect increasing with age (also **pres'byopy**). [Gr *presbys* old, and *ōps*, *ōpos* the eye]

■ **pres'byope** *n* someone suffering from presbyopia. **presbyopic** /-op'ik'/ *adj*.

presbyte /*prez'bū'*/ *n* in strict etymological sense, an old man, but used for a presbyopic person. [Gr *presbytēs* an old man]

■ **presbyt'ic** /-bi't'/ *adj*. **pres'bytism** *n*.

presbyter /*pres'bi-tər'*/ *n* (in the Presbyterian Church) an elder; (in Episcopal churches) a minister or priest ranking between a bishop and a deacon; a member of a presbytery; a presbyterian (*obs*). [Gr *presbyteros*, compar of *presbys* old]

■ **presbyt'eral** *adj* of a presbyter or presbyters. **presbyt'erate** /-rət'/ *n* the office of presbyter; a body of presbyters; the order of presbyters.

presbyterial /-iē'ri-əl'/ *adj* of a presbytery; of church government by elders. **presbytē'rially** *adv*. **pres'bytership** *n*. **pres'bytery** *n* a church court ranking next above the kirk session, consisting of the ministers and one ruling elder from each church within a certain district; the district so represented; the presbyterian system; part of a church reserved for the officiating priests, the eastern extremity; a priest's house (RC).

Presbyterian /*pres-bi-tē'ri-ən'*/ *adj* of or belonging to any Protestant Church with a system of government by elders or presbyters developed as a result of the Reformation led by Calvin in Geneva and by John Knox in Scotland; (also without *cap*) of, relating to or maintaining this form of church government. ♦ *n* a member of such a church; (also without *cap*) an upholder of the Presbyterian system. [Church L *presbyterium* presbytery]

■ **Presbytē'rianism** *n* (also without *cap*) the form of church government by presbyters. **Presbytē'rianize** or **-ise** *vt* and *vi* (also without *cap*) to make or become Presbyterian; to move towards Presbyterianism.

■ **Reformed Presbyterian Church** the Cameronians (qv). **United Presbyterian Church** a religious body formed by the union of the Secession and Relief Churches in 1847, included in the United

Church from 1900, and (except a minority) in the Church of Scotland from 1929.

preschool /*prē-skool'* or *prē'skool'*/ *adj* before school; not yet at school. ♦ *n* a nursery school or kindergarten. [*pre-* (1)]

■ **prē'schooler** *n* a preschool child.

prescience /*pres'i-əns*, *presh'*, -əns, -yans or *prē'*/ *n* foreknowledge; foresight. [L *praesciēns*, -entis, prp of *praescire*, from *prae* before, and *scire* to know]

■ **prē'scient** *adj*. **prē'sciently** *adv*.

prescientific /*prē-sī-ənt-tif'ik'*/ *adj* of or relating to the time before the scientific age, before knowledge was systematized. [*pre-* (1)]

prescind /*pri-sind'*/ *vt* to cut off, cut short, separate; to abstract. ♦ *vi* to withdraw one's attention (*usu* with *from*). [L *praescindere* to cut off in front]

■ **prescind'ent** *adj*. **prescission** /*pri-sish'an'*/ *n*.

prescious /*prē'shyəs* or *prē'*/ *adj* prescient. [L *praescius*, from *praescire*; cf *prescience*]

prescission see under **prescind**.

prescribe /*pri-skrib'*/ *vt* to lay down as a rule or direction; to give as an order; to enjoin (*archaic*); to give instructions for the preparation and dispensing of (a medicine, etc) or for (a certain procedure, diet, etc), as a remedy (*med*); to limit, confine, set bounds to (*obs*); to claim as a prescriptive right (*law*; *obs*). ♦ *vi* to lay down rules; to give or make out a prescription (*med*); to make a claim on account of long possession (with *to*, *for*; *law*); to become unenforceable or invalid through time, to lapse (*law*). [L *praescribere*, -scriptum to write before, lay down in advance, object to, from *prae* before, in front, and *scribere* to write]

■ **prescrib'er** *n*. **prescript** /*prē'skript* formerly *-skript'*/ *n* (*archaic*) an ordinance or rule; a remedy or treatment prescribed. ♦ *adj* /*prē'* or *-skript'*/ (*rare*) prescribed. **prescriptibil'ity** /*pri-*/ *n*.

prescrip'tible *adj* (*law*) subject to prescription. **prescrip'tion** *n* the act of prescribing or directing; a written direction for the preparation or dispensing of a medicine (**by** or **on prescription** (obtainable) on presentation of a doctor's prescription); the medicine itself; a written description from an optician stating the type of lenses necessary to correct one's vision; a formula or recipe; (also **positive prescription**) the creation or fortification of a legal right to land or buildings through unchallenged use or possession for a fixed period of time (*law*); (also **negative prescription**) the extinction of a legal right through failure to assert it by legal action within a fixed period of time (*law*). **prescrip'tive** *adj* prescribing, laying down rules; pronouncing on right and wrong usage (*linguistics*); (of a right, etc) consisting in, or acquired by, custom or long-continued use; customary. **prescrip'tively** *adv*. **prescrip'tiveness** *n*. **prescrip'tivism** *n* (recommendation of) the practice of laying down rules, esp on correct and incorrect usage in language; the contention that moral pronouncements have prescriptive force in the manner of imperatives, and no truth value (*philos*). **prescrip'tivist** *n*.

prescutum /*prē-skūt'am'*/ *n* (*zool*) a tergal plate in front of the scutum of insects. [*pre-* (1)]

prese see **presa**.

preselect /*prē-si-lekt'*/ *vt* to select beforehand. [*pre-* (1)]

■ **preselec'tion** *n*. **preselec'tor** *n* a component of a radio receiver, improving reception.

pre-sell /*prē-sel'*/ *vt* to sell (something) before it has been produced. [*pre-* (1)]

presence /*prez'əns'*/ *n* the state or circumstance of being present, *opp* to *absence*; one's attendance at an event, etc; someone's company or immediate neighbourhood; the place where a great personage is; a presence chamber (*obs*); an assembly, esp of great persons (*obs*); the physical impression created by one's person; imposing, commanding or authoritative physical bearing; military or political representation or influence; a being felt to be present, esp in a supernatural way. [OFr, from L *praesentia*; see **present**']

□ **presence chamber** *n* the room in which a great personage receives company.

■ **in the presence of** in front of, or in the near vicinity of (someone).

presence of mind the power of keeping one's wits about one; coolness and readiness in emergency, danger or surprise. **real presence** (*theol*) the true and substantial presence, according to the belief of Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, etc, of the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

pre-senile /*prē-sē-nīl'*/ (*med*) *adj* belonging to or typical of the period of life preceding, esp just preceding, old age. [*pre-* (1)]

□ **pre-senile dementia** *n* a condition similar to senile dementia that has its onset in middle age.

presension see under **present**.

present ¹ /*prez'ənt'*/ *adj* being here or in the place in question, *opp* to *absent*; ready at hand; found or existing in the thing in question; now existing; not in a conditional or hypothetical mode; not past or future;

denoting a verb tense used to express an action happening or condition existing just now, or for making general statements (*grammar*); (of a verb or participle) in or of the present tense (*grammar*); immediate; (with *to*) having a place in, entering into (the thoughts, mind, etc; *old*); (of a person, the mind, etc) attentive to the matter in hand, not abstracted (*obs*). ♦ *n* the present time; the present tense; a verb in the present tense; the present business or occasion; the present document or (in *pl*) writings (*law*, etc). [OFr, from *L praesens, -entis* present]

■ **presenteeism** *n* attendance at a place of work beyond the required hours, so as to be seen to be enthusiastic. **pres'ently** *adv* at present, now (*obs* or *Scot* and *NAm*); before long, in a while; directly, immediately; necessarily, inevitably, ipso facto (*old*); for the time being (*obs*); at once (*obs*). **pres'entness** *n*.

□ **pres'ent-day** *adj* belonging to or found in the present time, contemporary. **present value** *n* the current value of a sum of money as opposed to its value in the future after having been invested.

■ **at present** at the present time, now. **for the present** as far as concerns the present time, for the moment; now, for the time being.

present² /pri-'zent/ *vt* to give, make a gift of (something to someone) or furnish (someone with something *esp* as a gift) *esp* formally or ceremonially; to deliver, convey or hand over; to introduce (one person to another, *esp* more distinguished, person); to introduce (someone) at court; to betake (oneself) to an appointed place to await instructions, interviews, etc; to bring (an actor or other performer) before the public, on stage, etc; to stage (a play), show (a film), etc; to introduce or compère (a television or radio show); to exhibit to view; to have as a characteristic; to pose or set (a problem, etc) or burden (someone with a problem, etc); to offer for consideration or acceptance (ideas, proposals, etc); to offer (a sight or other perceptual data) to the senses; to set out (written work, etc) in any manner; (of an idea, opportunity, etc) to suggest or offer (itself); to hand over (a cheque) for acceptance or (a bill) for payment; to assemble arguments for, and expound (a case); to depict, portray or represent; to bring before God's presence for dedication (*Bible*); to appoint (a clergyman to a benefice); to nominate (a scholar, etc to a foundation); to put forward (a candidate for examination, the award of a degree, etc); to bring (an offence, etc) to the notice of the authorities (*old*); to charge or bring up for trial (*old*); to symbolize (*archaic*); to represent the character of, act, impersonate (*archaic*); to apply; to offer the greetings of, 'remember' (someone to someone) (*obs*); to point, direct, aim, turn in some direction; to put on (eg a cheerful face) in public; to hold (a weapon) in the aiming position or vertically in front of the body in salute to a superior (**present arms** to hold (one's weapon) in the vertical saluting position; *milit*). ♦ *vi* (of the baby's head, shoulder or buttocks) to be in the position for emerging first (*obstetrics*); (of a patient) to report to a doctor (with certain signs and symptoms; *med*); (of chances, opportunities, etc) to offer, be available (*rare*); to make presentation to a living (*relig*). ♦ *n* the position of a weapon in presenting arms or in aiming (**at present** in the presenting-arms position). [OFr *presenter*, from *L praesentāre*, from *praesēns* present (in place or time)]

■ **presentability** *n*. **presentable** *adj* capable of being presented; fit to be presented; fit to be seen; passable. **presentableness** *n*. **presentably** *adv*. **presentation** /prez-ən-ti-'ā-shən/ *n* the act of presenting; the manner in which something is presented, laid out, explained or advertised; the expounding or unfolding of eg a case, argument, etc; the right of presenting; that which is presented; something performed for an audience, a play, show or other entertainment; an illustrated talk presenting information eg to a business audience; immediate cognition (*psychol*); representation; the position of a baby in the womb just before birth, ie whether head or buttocks downwards (*obstetrics*). ♦ *adj* that has been presented; of or for presentation. **presentā'tional** *adj*. **presentā'tionism** *n* (*psychol*) the doctrine of immediate cognition of objects. **presentā'tionist** *n*. **presentative** /pri-'zent-i-'ā-tiv/ *adj* subject to the right of presentation (*relig*); presenting an idea to the mind, (*esp* one that is not imitative); relating to immediate cognition (*psychol*). **presentee** /prez-ən-tē-/ *n* someone who is presented to a benefice. **presenter** /pri-'zent-ər/ *n*. **presentive** *adj* (*linguistics*) presenting a conception to the mind, not a mere relation. **presentiveness** *n*. **present'ment** *n* the act of presenting; a statement; a jury's statement to a court of matters within its knowledge; a representation; an image, delineation, picture; a theatrical representation or performance; a presentation to consciousness (*psychol, philos*).

present³ /prez-'ənt/ *n* a gift; a percentage of the prize money given to a winning jockey (*horse-racing*). [OFr *present*, orig *presence*, hence gift (from the phrase *mettre en présent à*, to put into the presence of, hence to offer as a gift to)]

presential /pri-'zen-shl/ (*rare*) *adj* relating to presence; having or implying actual presence; present; as if present; having presence of mind, alert; formed from the present tense (*grammar*). [Med *L praesentialis*, from *praesentia* presence]

■ **presentiality** /-shi-'al-i-ti/ *n*. **presen'tially** *adv*.

presentiment /pre-'sen-'shy-ənt, -shənt or -shi-'ənt/ *adj* having a presentiment. [*pre-* (1)]

■ **presen'sion** *n*.

presentiment /pri-'zen-'ti-mənt or -sen-/ *n* a premonition or foreboding, *esp* of evil. [*pre-* (1)]

■ **presentimental** /-men-'tl/ *adj*.

presentive, presentment see under **present²**.

preserve /pri-'zɜ:v/ *vt* to keep safe from harm or loss; to keep safe from danger or death, to keep alive; to keep in existence; to retain; to maintain, keep up; to keep sound; to keep from or guard against decay; to freeze, dry, pickle, season, boil in sugar or otherwise treat (food) for keeping; to guard (game, or land, rivers, etc) against shooting or fishing by unauthorized persons. ♦ *vi* to preserve game, fish, ground, or water, etc. ♦ *n* a jam, pickle or other preserved form of fruit or vegetables; an area of land or stretch of water where game or fish are reared for private shooting or fishing; an area of work or activity regarded as restricted to certain people and forbidden to outsiders; (in *pl*) spectacles or goggles to protect the eyes from dust or strong light (*old*). [Fr *préserv*, from *L prae* before, and *servāre* to keep]

■ **preservability** *n*. **preserv'able** *adj*. **preservā'tion** /prez-/ *n* the process of preserving or of being preserved; repair. **preservā'tionist** *n* someone who is interested in preserving traditional and historic things. **preserv'ative** *adj* serving to preserve. ♦ *n* a preserving agent, eg a chemical added to food; a safeguard; a prophylactic medicine, etc. **preserv'atory** *adj* and *n*. **preserv'er** *n*.

□ **preservation order** *n* a legally binding directive ordering the preservation of a building deemed to be historically important. **preserv'ing-pan** *n* a large pan *usu* with a hooped handle and a lip, in which jams, etc are made.

■ **well-preserved** (*inf*; of a person) not showing the signs of ageing one would expect in a person of such an age.

preses or **praeses** /pre-'siz/ (chiefly *Scot*) *n* (*pl* **prē'ses** or **prae'ses** /-sēz/) a president or chairman. [*L praeses, -idis*, from *praesidēre*; see **preside**]

preset /pre-'set/ *vt* (**presett'ing**; **preset'**) to adjust (a piece of electronic equipment, etc) so that it will operate at the required time; to set initially or preliminarily. ♦ *n* /pre-/ a device or control that presets. [*pre-* (1)]

pre-shrink /pre-'shrink/ *vt* to shrink (cloth) before it is made up into garments, etc. [*pre-* (1)]

preside /pri-'zīd/ *vi* to act as chairman, be in the chair; to be at the head of the table (at a meal); to be in charge or in a position of superintendence (with *over*); to be the guardian or tutelary god of a place (with *over*); to dominate (a place, scene, etc) like a presence (with *over*); to be at the organ or piano, *orig* as a kind of conductor. ♦ *vt* (*rare*) to be at the head of, to control. [Fr *présider*, from *L praesidēre*, from *prae* above (others), and *sedēre* to sit]

□ **presiding officer** *n* a person in charge of a polling place.

president¹ /prez-i-'dant/ *n* the elected head of a republic; the head of a board, council, or department of government; someone who is chosen to preside over the meetings of a society, conference, etc; in the European Union, a member state that assumes a role analogous to this for a six-month period; the title of the head of certain colleges, universities and other institutions; the chairman of a company, a bank governor, or head of an organization generally (*esp US*); the celebrant at Holy Communion; a colonial or state governor (*hist*). ♦ *adj* (*Milton*) presiding, superintending. [Fr *président*, from *L praesidēns, -ēntis*, *prp* of *praesidēre*; see **preside**]

■ **pres'idency** *n* the office of a president, or his or her rank, term of office, jurisdiction or official place of residence; (with *cap*) the office of president of the Council of Ministers of the European Union, which is held in rotation by each member state for six months at a time; each of three main divisions of India (*hist*); a Mormon governing council. **pres'idess** *n* (*old*) a female president or the wife of a president. **presidential** /-den-'shi-/ *adj* of a president or presidency; presiding, superintending. **pres'idenship** *n*.

■ **Lord President** the presiding judge of the Court of Session. **Lord President of the Council** a member of the House of Lords who presides over the privy council.

president² (*Spenser, Shakesp, Milton*) for **precedent** (see under **precede**).

presidial /pri-'sid-i-'al/ *adj* relating to a garrison, a **presidio** or a **president**; provincial (*Fr hist*). [Fr *présidial*, from *LL praesidiālis*, from *praeses, -idis* governor, and *praesidium* garrison]

presidiary /pri-'sid-i-'ā-ri/ *adj* garrisoning, serving as a garrison; of a garrison. [*L praesidiārius*, from *praesidium* garrison]

presidio /pri-'sid-i-'ō or pre-'sē-'dhyō/ *n* (*pl* **presid'ios**) (in areas of Spanish control or settlement) a military post; a penal settlement; a fort, from *presidio* garrison.