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3 : done too quickly and without enough thought or planning • a *precipitous* [=precipitate] action
 — **pre-clip-i-tous-ly** *adv* • The slope dropped away *precipitously*. • Home sales are declining/dropping *precipitously*.
 — **pre-clip-i-tous-ness** *noun* [noncount]
pré-cis /pre'si:/ *noun*, *pl* **pré-cis** /pre'si:z/ [count] : a brief summary of the main points and ideas of a piece of writing or speech • a *précis* of the book's plot
 — **pré-cis** *verb* -**cis-es** /pre'si:z/; -**cised**; -**cis-ing** [+ *obj*] *Brit* • She is skilled at *précising* complex theories.

pre-cise /pri'sais/ *adj*

1 **a** [more ~; most ~] : very accurate and exact • Be sure to take *precise* measurements before you cut the cloth. • The dating of very old materials has become more *precise* with new instruments. • a *precise* definition • The word has a very *precise* meaning. • Can you find a more *precise* term than "good" to describe the movie? • Could you be a little more *precise* about what happened? **b** *always used before a noun* — used to refer to an exact and particular time, location, etc. • She quietly closed the door to the baby's room, and at just that *precise* moment the phone began to ring.
 2 [more ~; most ~] : very careful and exact about the details of something • She is very *precise* in her work.
to be precise — used to indicate that a statement is accurate and specific • one night in early summer—June 22, *to be precise*
 — **pre-cise-ly** *adv* • It is *precisely* [=exactly] two o'clock. • He knows *precisely* how much money he has. • "Do you mean that the system is outdated?" "Precisely." = "Yes, that's *precisely* what I mean." • The king was popular *precisely* because he was so kind and generous. • I have a doctor's appointment this afternoon, or, *more precisely*, at two o'clock this afternoon. — **pre-cise-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the *preciseness* of the measurements • She does her work with *preciseness*. [=precision]

1 **pre-ci-sion** /pri'siʒən/ *noun* [noncount] : the quality of being precise : exactness or accuracy • I admire the *precision* of her work. — often used after *with* • The work was done *with surgical precision*. [=was done in a very precise way] • The cause of the fire cannot be determined *with any (degree of) precision*.

2 **precision** *adj*, *always used before a noun*

1 : designed for very accurate measurement or operation • a *precision* instrument
 2 : done in a very careful and exact way • *precision* drilling • The airplane made a *precision* approach for landing.

pre-clude /pri'klu:d/ *verb* -**cludes**; -**clud-ed**; -**clud-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal*

1 : to make (something) impossible : to prevent (something) from happening • She suffered an injury that *precluded* the possibility of an athletic career. • Bad weather *precluded* any further attempts to reach the summit.
 2 : to prevent (someone) from doing something — + *from* • The injury *precluded* her *from* having an athletic career.

pre-co-cious /pri'kouʃəs/ *adj* [more ~; most ~] of a child : having or showing the qualities or abilities of an adult at an unusually early age • She was a *precocious* child who could read before she went to school. • A *precocious* musician, he was giving concerts when he was seven.

— **pre-co-cious-ly** *adv* • a *precociously* mature child — **pre-co-cious-ness** *noun* [noncount] • the child's *precociousness* — **pre-coc-i-ty** /pri'ka:səti/ *noun* [noncount] • the child's *precocity*

pre-con-ceived /pri:kən'si:vd/ *adj*, *always used before a noun* : formed before having actual knowledge about something or before experiencing something — often + *about* or *of* • I didn't have any *preconceived* ideas/notions *about/of* what the job would be like when I first started.

pre-con-cep-tion /pri:kən'sepʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -**tions** [count] : an idea or opinion that someone has before learning about or experiencing something directly • I came to the lecture without any *preconceptions*. — often + *about* or *of* • He's changing people's *preconceptions about/of* modern art.

pre-con-di-tion /pri:kən'diʃən/ *noun*, *pl* -**tions** [count] : something that must exist or happen before something else can exist or happen • An education is an essential/important/necessary *precondition* [=prerequisite] for getting a good job. • They insist on a guarantee as a *precondition of/to* the deal.

pre-cook /pri'kuk/ *verb* -**cooks**; -**cooked**; -**cook-ing** [+ *obj*] : to cook (food) partially or entirely at an earlier time • He *precooked* the chicken before he grilled it. • The pasta

should be *precooked* and allowed to cool. • *precooked* meals/meats

pre-cur-sor /pri'kəsə/ *noun*, *pl* -**sors** [count] : somewhat *formal* : something that comes before something else and that often leads to or influences its development — often + *of* or *to* • Rhythm and blues was a *precursor of* rock music. • Small tremors may be *precursors to* big earthquakes.

pre-date /pri:'deɪt/ *verb* -**dates**; -**dat-ed**; -**dat-ing** [+ *obj*] : to exist or happen at an earlier time than (something or someone) • modes of transportation that *predate* the car • the native people who *predated* European settlers in America — opposite *POSTDATE*

pre-da-tion /pri'deɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] *technical* : the act of killing and eating other animals : the act of preying on other animals • *predation* by lions

pred-a-tor /'predətə/ *noun*, *pl* -**tors** [count]

1 : an animal that lives by killing and eating other animals : an animal that preys on other animals • *predators* like bears and wolves • The population of rabbits is controlled by natural *predators*.
 2 : a person who looks for other people in order to use, control, or harm them in some way • a sexual *predator* [=a person who commits sexual crimes against other people] • a corporate *predator* acquiring business rivals

pred-a-to-ry /'predə'tori, Brit 'predətri/ *adj*

1 *technical* : living by killing and eating other animals • *predatory* animals/birds/insects
 2 [more ~; most ~] : wrongly harming or using others for pleasure or profit • *predatory* business practices • *predatory* acts of sexual violence • *predatory* men/women
pre-de-cease /pri:'di:s/ *verb* -**ceases**; -**ceased**; -**ceas-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to die before (someone) • She was *predeceased* by her husband. [=her husband died before she did]

pre-de-ces-sor /'predə'sesə, Brit 'pri:də'sesə/ *noun*, *pl* -**sors** [count]
 1 : a person who had a job or position before someone else • The company's new president has changed many of the policies that were introduced by his *predecessor*. [=by the previous president] — opposite *SUCCESSOR*
 2 : something that comes before something else • Today's computers are much faster than their *predecessors* were.

pre-des-ti-na-tion /pri:'destə'neɪʃən/ *noun* [noncount] : the belief that everything that will happen has already been decided by God or fate and cannot be changed
pre-des-tined /pri:'destənd/ *adj* : certain to do or be something or certain to happen • He felt he was *predestined* [=destined] to marry her when they first met. • The course of her life seemed to be *predestined*. • a *predestined* outcome
pre-de-ter-mine /pri:'dɛtəmən/ *verb* -**min-es**; -**min-ed**; -**min-ing** [+ *obj*] : to decide (something) before it happens or in advance • The sex of the child is *predetermined* when the egg is fertilized.

— **predetermined** *adj* • They were to meet at a *predetermined* time and place. [=a time and place that they had agreed on earlier]
pre-de-ter-min-er /pri:'dɛtəmənə/ *noun*, *pl* -**ers** [count] *grammar* : a word (such as "both" or "all") that comes before a determiner in a phrase • In the phrase "for all their trouble," the word "their" is a determiner and the word "all" is a *predeterminer*.
pre-dic-a-ment /pri'dikəmənt/ *noun*, *pl* -**ments** [count] : a difficult or unpleasant situation • The governor has gotten himself into quite a *predicament*. • I don't know how to get out of the *predicament* I'm in.

1 **pred-i-cate** /'predə'keɪt/ *verb* -**cates**; -**cat-ed**; -**cat-ing** [+ *obj*] *formal* : to base (something) on or upon something else — usually used as (be) *predicated* • His theory is *predicated* on faulty assumptions.

2 **pred-i-cate** /'predəkət/ *noun*, *pl* -**cates** [count] *grammar* : the part of a sentence that expresses what is said about the subject • In the sentence "The child threw the ball," the subject is "the child" and the *predicate* is "threw the ball."
 3 **pred-i-cate** /'predəkət/ *adj*, *always used before a noun*, *grammar* : used after a linking verb to describe a noun that comes before the verb • In "the sun is hot," "hot" is a *predicate* adjective. — compare *ATTRIBUTIVE*

pred-i-ca-tive /'predəkətv, Brit 'pri'dikətv/ *adj*, *grammar* : *PREDICATE* • a *predicative* adjective
 — **pred-i-ca-tive-ly** *adv*

pre-dict /pri'dɪkt/ *verb* -**dicts**; -**dict-ed**; -**dict-ing** [+ *obj*]