

2. To ask earnestly for; to seek to obtain by supplication; to entreat for; to request; to beseech; to petition.

He that will have the benefit of this act must pray a probation before a sentence in the ecclesiastical court. *Asylife.*

3. To affect or move by prayer; to intercede in behalf of;—often with a following preposition or adverb.

Praying souls out of purgatory, by masses said in their behalf, became an ordinary office. *Milman.*  
To pray in aid (*Law*), to call in for help one who has interest in the cause.

**Prayer** (prā'er, 4), *n.* One who prays a supplicant.  
**Prayer** (prār), *n.* [O. Fr. *protere, preere*, N. Fr. *prière*, Pr. *pregaira, pregairra, pregatera*, It. *pregaria, pregueria, preghiera*, from Lat. *precarius*, obtained by prayer, from *precari*, to pray. See *supra*.]

1. The act of praying or of asking a favor; earnest request; hence, an earnest memorial to a court or a legislative body.

2. Especially, the act of addressing supplication to God; the offering up to the Supreme Being of adoration, confession, supplication, and thanksgiving; the practice of communion with God in devotional address, worship, and supplication; as, public prayer, secret prayer, &c. "As he is famed for mildness, peace, and prayer." *Shak.*

3. The form of words used in praying; a formula of supplication; an expressed petition; a supplication addressed to God; as a written or extemporaneous prayer; a long prayer; an earnest or appropriate prayer.

He made those two excellent prayers which were published immediately after his death. *Pell.*

**Syn.**—Petition; orison; supplication; entreaty; suit; request.

**Prayer-book** (prār'bōok), *n.* A book containing prayers or the forms of devotion, public or private.

**Prayerful** (prār'fūl), *a.* Given to prayer; using much prayer; devotional; as, a prayerful frame of mind.

**Prayerful ly** (prār'fūl y), *adv.* In a prayerful manner.

**Prayerfulness** (prār'fūl nēs), *n.* The quality of being prayerful.

**Prayerless** (prār'lēss), *a.* Not using prayer; habitually neglecting the duty of prayer to God; as, a prayerless family, or man. "The next time you go prayerless to bed." *Baxter.*

**Prayerless ly** (prār'lēss y), *adv.* In a prayerless manner.

**Prayerlessness** (prār'lēss nēs), *n.* Total or habitual neglect of prayer.

**Prayer-meeting**, *n.* A meeting or gathering for prayer.

**Praying**, *n.* Act of making a prayer; a prayer made. "Masses and prayers for the dead." *Bale.*

**Praying ly**, *adv.* With supplication to God.

**Pre**. An English form of the Lat. prefix *præ*, before, originally dat. f., answering to *pro*, as dat. m., of *per*, through. It expresses priority of time, place, or rank. It sometimes signifies *beyond*, and may be rendered *very*, as in *preposit*.

**Præ-accu-sation**, *n.* Previous accusation.

**Preach** (preech), *v. i.* [imp. & p. p. PREACHED (preecht); p. pr. & vb. n. PREACHING.] [O. Fr. *precher, prechier, prescher, preecer*, N. Fr. *precher, Pr. & Sp. predicar, Pg. pregar, It. predicare*, from Lat. *predicare*, to cry in public, to proclaim, fr. *præ*, before, and *dicare*, to make known, *dicere*, to say; A-S. *predican, D. prediken, preben, Dan. prædike, Sw. predika, Ger. predigen*.]

1. To pronounce a public discourse on a religious subject, or from a text of Scripture; to deliver a sermon.

From that time Jesus began to preach. *Matt. iv. 17*

2. To give earnest advice on moral or religious grounds; to discourse in the manner of a preacher.

**Preach**, *v. t.* 1. To proclaim or publish in religious discourses; to utter in a sermon or a formal religious harangue.

The Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek. *Is. lxi. 1*

2. To inculcate in public discourse; to speak in favor of; to support by public teaching.

He oft to them preached Conversion and repentance. *Milton.*

3. To deliver or pronounce; as, to preach a sermon.

4. To teach or instruct by preaching; to inform by preaching. [*Rare*.]

The Spirits of the Dead, Quitting their mortal mansion, enter not, As ye are preached, their final seat Of bliss, or bale. *Southey.*

To preach up, to discourse in favor of.

Can they preach up equality of birth? *Dryden.*

**Preach**, *n.* [Fr. *preche*, from *precher*. See *supra*.] A religious discourse. [Obs.] "To tenu religion, in that sort exercised, a mere preach." *Hooker.*

**Preacher**, *n.* [O. Fr. *precheres, preeschierres*, N. Fr. *precheur, predicateur, Pr. predicatore, Sp. predicador, Pg. pregador, It. predicatore, Lat. predicator, A-S. predicere, Ger. prediger*. See *PREACH*, *v. i.*]

1. One who preaches; one who discourses publicly on religious subjects.

2. One who inculcates any thing with earnestness. No preacher is listened to but Time. *Swift.*

**Preacher-ship**, *n.* The office of a preacher. [*Rare*.] "Turned out of the *preacher-ship* of the Rolls." *Macaulay.*

**Preaching**, *n.* The act of one who preaches; a public religious discourse. *Milner.*

**Preachman**, *n.* A preacher;—so called in contempt. *Howell.*

**Preachment**, *n.* A discourse or sermon; a religious harangue—used depreciatingly or in contempt. *Shak.*

**Præ-acquaint**, *v. t.* To acquaint previously or beforehand. *Sheridan.*

**Præ-acquaintance**, *n.* Previous acquaintance or knowledge. *Harris.*

**Præ-act**, *v. i.* To act beforehand; to perform previously. "Those which, though acted after evening service, must needs be *præacted* by the fancy . . . all the day before." *Fuller.*

**Præ-action**, *n.* Previous action.

**Præ-a-dam-ite**, *a.* Prior to Adam. *Bp. Taylor.*

**Præ-ad-am-ite**, *n.* [Prefix *præ*, before, and *Adam*; Fr. *præadamite*.] An inhabitant of the earth before Adam.

**Præ-ad-am-ite**, *a.* Existing or occurring before Adam; as, fictitious, *præ-adamitic* periods. *Kirwan.*

**Præ-ad-min-is-tration**, *n.* Previous administration.

**Præ-ad-môn-ish**, *v. t.* [imp. & p. p. PREADMONISHED (præ-ad-môn'isht); p. pr. & vb. n. PREADMONISHING.] To admonish previously.

**Præ-ad-mo-ni-tion** (mo-nish'un), *n.* Previous warning or admonition.

**Præ-ad-ver-tise**, *v. t.* To advertise or announce beforehand.

**Præ-am-ble**, *n.* [Fr. *præambule*, Sp. *præambulo*, It. *præambolo*, L. Lat. *præambulum*, from Lat. *præambulus*, walking before. See *PREAMBULATE*.] An introductory portion; an introduction or preface, as to a book, document, and the like; specifically, the introductory part of a statute, which states the reasons and intent of the law.

**Præ-am-ble**, *v. t.* [O. Fr. *præambuler*.] To introduce with previous remarks; to preface.

**Præ-am-ble**, *v. i.* To precede any thing; to serve as a preface.

We must be content to hear a *præambling* boast of your valor. *Milton.*

**Præ-am-bu-lary**, *a.* [Lat. *præambulus*, O. Fr. *præambulaire*. See *PREAMBLE*, *n.*] Of, or pertaining to, a preamble; introductory; contained or provided for in a preamble. "A *præambulatory* tax." *Burke.*

**Præ-am-bu-late**, *v. i.* [Lat. *præambulare, præambulatam*, from *præ*, before, and *ambulare*, to walk, to go.] To walk or go before. [Obs.] *Jordan.*

**Præ-am-bu-lation**, *n.* 1. A walking or going before. [Obs.]

2. A preamble. [Obs.] *Chaucer.*

**Præ-am-bu-la-ry**, *a.* Going before; preceding; leading the way; introductory. [Obs.]

Simon Magus had *præambulatory* impieties. *Bp. Taylor.*

**Præ-am-bu-lo-us**, *a.* Same as *PREAMBULATORY*.

**Præ-an-nounce**, *v. t.* To announce beforehand.

**Præ-an-te-pe-nult-i-mate**, *a.* Being or indicating the fourth syllable from the end of a word, or that preceding the antepenult.

**Præ-ap-point**, *v. t.* To appoint previously.

**Præ-ap-point-ment**, *n.* Previous appointment.

**Præ-ap-pre-hen-sion**, *n.* [See *APPREHEND*.] An opinion formed before examination. *Brownie.*

**Præ-ase**, *v. t. or i.* To press; to crowd; to urge. [Obs.] *Spenser.*

**Præ-ase**, *n.* Press; crowd. [Obs.] See *PRESS*.

**Præ-as-ing**, *a.* Crowding. [Obs.] *Spenser.*

**Præ-as-sur-ance** (-ash-shūr'), *n.* Previous assurance. *Coleridge.*

**Præ-au-di-ence**, *n.* [See *AUDIENCE*.] (*Law*) Precedence or rank at the bar among lawyers; right of previous audience. *Blackstone.*

**Præ-bend**, *n.* [Fr. *prébende*, Pr. & Sp. *prebenda*, It. *prebenda, prebenda*, L. Lat. *præbēnda*, from Lat. *præbere*, to hold forth, afford, allow, contracted from *præhibere*, from *præ*, before, and *habere*, to have, hold.]

1. The stipend or maintenance granted to a prebendary out of the estate of a cathedral or collegiate church with which he is connected.

2. A prebendary. [Obs.] *Bacon.*

*Dignitary prebend*, one having jurisdiction annexed to it.—*Simple prebend*, one restricted to the revenue only.

**Præ-bend'al**, *a.* Pertaining to a prebend; as, a prebendal priest or stall. *Chesterfield.*

**Præ-bend-ary**, *n.* [Fr. *prébendier*, It. *prebendario*, L. Lat. *præbendarius*. See *supra*.] A clergyman attached to a collegiate or cathedral church, who enjoys a prebend in consideration of his officiating at stated times in the church. *Hook.*

A prebendary differs from a canon in this: the prebendary receives his prebend in consideration of his officiating in the church; the canon has his stipend merely in consequence of his being received into the cathedral or college.

**Præ-bend-ary-ship**, *n.* The office of a prebendary; a canonry. *Wotton.*

**Præ-bend-ate**, *v. t.* To invest with the office of

prebendary; to cause to become a prebendary. [Obs.]

**Præ-bend-ship**, *n.* A prebendaryship. [Obs.]

**Præ-cant**, *n.* [Lat. *precans, precantis*, p. pr. of *precari*, to pray.] One who prays. "Asserting the efficacy of prayer relatively to the pray-er or *precant* himself." *Coleridge.*

**Præ-ca-ri-ous**, *a.* [Lat. *precarius*, obtained by begging or prayer, depending on request or on the will of another, from *precari*, to pray, beg, from *præx, precis*, a prayer; Fr. *préciaire*, Pr. *preçari*, Sp. & It. *preçario*.]

1. Depending on the will or pleasure of another; held by courtesy; liable to be changed or lost at the pleasure of another.

2. Held by a doubtful tenure; depending on unknown or unforeseen causes or events; exposed to constant risk; not to be depended on for certainty or stability; uncertain. "Intervals of partial and *precarious* liberty." *Macaulay.*

**Syn.**—Uncertain; unsettled; unsteady; doubtful; dubious; equivocal.—*PRECAIOUS, UNCERTAIN.* *Preca-ri-ous* is stronger than *uncertain*. Derived originally from the Latin *precari*, it first signified "granted to entreat," and, hence, "wholly dependent on the will of another." Thus it came to express the highest species of uncertainty, and is applied to such things as depend wholly on future casualties. "This little happiness is so very *precarious*, that it wholly depends on the will of others." *Addison.*

With certain pain, *uncertain* of relief True emblem of a wretched lover's grief. *Granville.*

**Præ-ca-ri-ous-ly**, *adv.* At the will or pleasure of others; dependently; by an uncertain tenure; as, he subsists *precariously*.

**Præ-ca-ri-ous-ness**, *n.* The quality or state of being precarious; dependence on the will or pleasure of others, or on unknown events; uncertainty.

**Præ-ca-tion**, *n.* The act of entreating or praying; supplication; entreaty. [Obs.] *Cotton.*

**Præ-ca-tive**, *a.* [Lat. *precatus* and *precato*.] **Præ-ca-to-ry**, *i.* *rius*, from *precari*, to pray. See *PRECA-RI-OUS*.] Suppliant; beseeching.

*Precautionary words (Law)*, words of recommendation, request, entreaty, wish, or expectation employed in wills, as distinguished from *express directions*;—in some cases creating a trust. *Jarman.*

**Præ-cau-tion**, *n.* [Fr. *précaution*, Sp. *precaucion*, It. *precauzione*, Lat. *præcautio*, from *præcavere, præcautum*, to guard against beforehand, from *præ*, before, and *cavere*, to be on one's guard.]

1. Previous caution or care; caution previously employed to prevent mischief or secure good in possession.

2. A measure taken beforehand to ward off evil or secure good or success; a precautionary act.

**Præ-cau-tion**, *v. t.* [imp. & p. p. PRECAUTIONED; p. pr. & vb. n. PRECAUTIONING.] [Fr. *précautionner*.] To warn or advise beforehand for preventing mischief or securing good. *Locke.*

**Præ-cau-tion-al**, *a.* Preventive of mischief; precautionary. *Mountagu.*

**Præ-cau-tion-a-ry**, *a.* Proceeding from, or containing, previous caution; adapted to prevent mischief or secure good; as, *precautionary* advice or measures.

**Præ-cau-tious** (-shus), *a.* Taking precautions or preventive measures.

**Præ-cau-tious-ly**, *adv.* With precaution.

**Præ-ce-dā-ne-ous**, *a.* [From *præcedē*.] Preceding; antecedent; anterior. [Obs.] *Hale.*

**Præ-cē-de**, *v. t.* [imp. & p. p. PRECEDED; p. pr. & vb. n. PRECEDING.] [Lat. *præcedere*, from *præ*, before, and *cedere*, to go, to be in motion; Fr. *précéder*, Pr. Sp., & Pg. *preceder*, It. *precedere*.]

1. To go before in place or order of time; to occur first with relation to any thing. "Harm *precedes* not sin." *Milton.*

2. To go before in rank or importance.

3. To preface; to introduce;—used with *by* or *with* before the instrumental object. [*Rare*.] It is usual to *precede* hostilities by a public declaration. *Kent*

**Præ-cē-den-ty**, *n.* [O. Fr. *précedence*, Sp. *prece-Pre-cē-den-ty*, } *dencia*, It. *precedenza*. See *infra*.]

1. The act or state of being precedent; a going before; priority in position, rank, or time; as, the *precedence* of one event to another.

2. The state of going or being before in rank or dignity or the place of honor; right to a more honorable place; prior or superior rank.

*Precedence* went in truck, And he was competent whose purse was so. *Cowper.* Which of the different desires has *precedency* in determining the will to the next action? *Locke*

**Syn.**—Antecedence; priority; pre-eminence; preference; superiority.

**Præ-cē-dent**, *a.* [Lat. *præcedens*, p. pr. of *præcedere*; Fr. *précedent*, Sp. & It. *precedente*. See *PRECEDE*.] Going before; anterior; preceding; antecedent; as, *precedent* services; a *precedent* fault of the will.

The world, or any part thereof, could not be precedent to the creation of man. *Hale.*

**Præ-cē-dent**, *n.* 1. Something done or said that

ūrl, rŭde, pŭsh; e, ŭ, o, sŭst; ę as s; ęh as sh; e, eh, as k; ę as j, ę as in ęot; ę as z; ę as gz; ŭ as in lŭnger, lŭk; th as in thŭne.