

# P R E

**PRESUMPTUOUSNESS**, *n.* The quality of being presumptuous or rashly confident; groundless confidence; arrogance; irreverent boldness or forwardness.

**PRESUPPOSAL**, *n.* *presuppo'zal*. [pre and supposal.]

Supposal previously formed; presupposition.

**PRESUPPOSE**, *v. t.* *presuppo'ze*. [Fr. *presupposer*; It. *presupporre*; Eng. *pre* and *suppose*.]

To suppose as previous; to imply as antecedent. The existence of created things *presupposes* the existence of a Creator.

Each kind of knowledge *presupposes* many necessary things learned in other sciences and known beforehand.

**PRESUPPOSED**, *pp.* Supposed to be antecedent.

**PRESUPPOSING**, *ppr.* Supposing to be previous.

**PRESUPPOSITION**, *n.* Supposition previously formed.

2. Supposition of something antecedent.

**PRESURMISE**, *n.* *presurmi'ze*. [pre and surmise.]

A surmise previously formed.

**PRETEND'**, *v. t.* [L. *pretendo*; *præ*, before, and *tendo*, to tend, to reach or stretch; Fr. *pretendre*; It. *pretendere*; Sp. *pretender*.]

1. Literally, to reach or stretch forward; used by Dryden, but this use is not well authorized.

2. To hold out, as a false appearance; to offer something feigned instead of that which is real; to simulate, in words or actions.

This let him know,  
Lest willfully transgressing, he *pretend*  
Surprisal.

3. To show hypocritically; as, to *pretend* great zeal when the heart is not engaged; to *pretend* patriotism for the sake of gaining popular applause or obtaining an office.

4. To exhibit as a cover for something hidden.

Lest that too heavenly form, *pretended*  
To hellish falsehood, snare them.

5. To claim.  
Chiefs shall be grudg'd the part which they  
*pretend*.

In this sense, we generally use *pretend* to.

6. To intend; to design. [Not used.]

**PRETEND'**, *v. t.* To put in a claim, truly or falsely; to hold out the appearance of being, possessing or performing. A man may *pretend* to be a physician, and *pretend* to perform great cures. Bad men often *pretend* to be patriots.

**PRETENDED**, *pp.* Held out, as a false appearance; feigned; simulated.

2. *a.* Ostensible; hypocritical; as a *pretended* reason or motive; *pretended* zeal.

**PRETENDEDLY**, *adv.* By false appearance or representation.

**PRETENDER**, *n.* One who makes a show of something not real; one who lays claim to any thing.

2. In *English history*, the heir of the royal family of Stuart, who lays claim to the crown of Great Britain, but is excluded by law.

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**PRETENDERSHIP**, *n.* The right or claim of the Pretender.

**PRETENDING**, *ppr.* Holding out a false appearance; laying claim to, or attempting to make others believe one is what in truth he is not, or that he has or does something which he has or does not; making hypocritical professions.

**PRETENDINGLY**, *adv.* Arrogantly; presumptuously.

**PRETENSE**, *n.* *pretens'*. [L. *pratensus*, *præ-tendo*.]

1. A holding out or offering to others something false or feigned; a presenting to others, either in words or actions, a false or hypocritical appearance, usually with a view to conceal what is real, and thus to deceive. Under *pretense* of giving liberty to nations, the prince conquered and enslaved them. Under *pretense* of patriotism, ambitious men serve their own selfish purposes.

Let not Trojans, with a feigned *pretense*  
Of proffer'd peace, delude the Latian prince.

It is sometimes preceded by *on*; as *on pretense* of revenging Cesar's death.

2. Assumption; claim to notice.

Never was any thing of this *pretense* more  
ingeniously imparted.

3. Claim, true or false.  
Primogeniture cannot have any *pretense* to a right of solely inheriting property or power.

4. Something held out to terrify or for other purpose; as a *pretense* of danger.

**PRETENSED**, *a.* Pretended; feigned; as a *pretensed* right to land.

**PRETENSION**, *n.* [It. *pretensione*; Fr. *pretention*.]

1. Claim, true or false; a holding out the appearance of right or possession of a thing, with a view to make others believe what is not real, or what, if true, is not yet known or admitted. A man may make *pretensions* to rights which he cannot maintain; he may make *pretensions* to skill which he does not possess; and he may make *pretensions* to skill or acquirements which he really possesses, but which he is not known to possess. Hence we speak of ill founded *pretensions*, and well founded *pretensions*.

2. Claim to something to be obtained, or a desire to obtain something, manifested by words or actions. Any citizen may have *pretensions* to the honor of representing the state in the senate or house of representatives.

The common demand that the consulship should lie in common to the *pretensions* of any Roman.

Men indulge those opinions and practices that favor their *pretensions*.

3. Fictitious appearance; a *Latin phrase*, not now used.

This was but an invention and *pretension* given out by the Spaniards.

**PRETENTATIVE**, *a.* [L. *præ* and *tento*, to try.]

That may be previously tried or attempted.

**PRETER**, a Latin preposition, [*præter*,] is used in some English words as a prefix.

Its proper signification is *beyond*, hence *beside*, *more*.

**PRETERIMPERFECT**, *a.* [beyond or beside unfinished.]

In *grammar*, designating the tense which expresses action or being not perfectly past; an awkward epithet, very ill applied.

**PRETERIT**, *a.* [L. *præteritus*, *prætereo*; *præter*, beyond, and *eo*, to go.]

Past; applied to the tense in *grammar* which expresses an action or being perfectly past or finished, often that which is just past or completed, but without a specification of time. It is called also the *perfect* tense; as, *scripsi*, I have written. We say, "I have written a letter to my correspondent;" in which sentence, the time is supposed to be not distant and not specified. But when the time is mentioned, we use the imperfect tense so called; as, "I wrote to my correspondent yesterday." In this use of the *preterit* or perfect tense, the English differs from the French, in which *j'ai écrit hier*, is correct; but I have written yesterday, would be very bad English.

**PRETERITION**, *n.* [Fr. from L. *prætereo*, to pass by.]

1. The act of going past; the state of being past.

2. In *rhetoric*, a figure by which, in pretending to pass over any thing, we make a summary mention of it; as, "I will not say, he is valiant, he is learned, he is just," &c. The most artful praises are those bestowed by way of *preterition*.

**PRETERITNESS**, *n.* [from *preterit*.] The state of being past. [Little used.]

**PRETERLAPSED**, *a.* [L. *præterlapsus*, *præterlabor*; *præter* and *labor*, to glide.]

Past; gone by; as *preterlapsed* ages.

**PRETERLEGAL**, *a.* [L. *præter* and *legal*.] Exceeding the limits of law; not legal.

**PRETERMISSION**, *n.* [L. *prætermisio*, from *præmittit*.] A passing by; omission.

2. In *rhetoric*, the same as *preterition*.

**PRETERMIT'**, *v. t.* [L. *prætermitto*; *præter*, beyond, and *mitto*, to send.]

To pass by; to omit.

**PRETERNATURAL**, *a.* [L. *præter* and *natural*.]

Beyond what is natural, or different from what is natural; irregular. We call those events in the physical world *preternatural*, which are extraordinary, which are deemed to be *beyond* or without the ordinary course of things, and yet are not deemed miraculous; in distinction from events which are *supernatural*, which cannot be produced by physical laws or powers, and must therefore be produced by a direct exertion of omnipotence. We also apply the epithet to things uncommon or irregular; as a *preternatural* swelling; a *preternatural* pulse; a *preternatural* excitement or temper.

**PRETERNATURALITY**, *n.* Preternaturalness. [Little used.]

**PRETERNATURALLY**, *adv.* In a manner beyond or aside from the common order of nature; as vessels of the body *preternaturally* distended.

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