

vessel by comparing it with a standard measure.

2. To evince, establish or ascertain as truth, reality or fact, by testimony or other evidence. The plaintiff in a suit, must *prove* the truth of his declaration; the prosecutor must *prove* his charges against the accused.

3. To evince truth by argument, induction or reasoning; to deduce certain conclusions from propositions that are true or admitted. If it is admitted that every immoral act is dishonorable to a rational being, and that dueling is an immoral act; then it is *proved* by necessary inference, that dueling is dishonorable to a rational being.

4. To ascertain the genuineness or validity of; to verify; as, to *prove* a will.

5. To experience; to try by suffering or encountering; to gain certain knowledge by the operation of something on ourselves, or by some act of our own.

Let him in arms the power of Turnus *prove*.  
Dryden.

6. In arithmetic, to show, evince or ascertain the correctness of any operation or result. Thus in subtraction, if the difference between two numbers, added to the lesser number, makes a sum equal to the greater, the correctness of the subtraction is *proved*. In other words, if the sum of the remainder and of the subtrahend, is equal to the minuend, the operation of subtraction is *proved* to be correct.

7. To try; to examine.

*Prove* your own selves. 2 Cor. xiii.

8. Men *prove* God, when by their provocations they put his patience to trial, Ps. xcv.; or when by obedience they make trial how much he will countenance such conduct, Mal. iii.

PROVE, *v. i.* To make trial; to essay.

The sons prepare—

To *prove* by arms whose fate it was to reign.  
Dryden.

2. To be found or to have its qualities ascertained by experience or trial; as, a plant or medicine *proves* salutary.

3. To be ascertained by the event or something subsequent; as the report *proves* to be true, or *proves* to be false.

When the inflammation ends in a gangrene, the case *proves* mortal. Arbuthnot.

4. To be found true or correct by the result.

5. To make certain; to show; to evince. This argument *proves* how erroneous is the common opinion.

6. To succeed.

If the experiment *proved* not—  
[Not in use.] Bacon.

PROVED, *pp.* Tried; evinced; experienced.

PROVEDITOR, } *n.* [It. *providitore*, from  
PROVEDORE, } *n.* *providere*, to provide.  
See *Provide*.]

A purveyor; one employed to procure supplies for an army.

*Providitor*, in Venice and other parts of Italy, is an officer who superintends matters of policy. Encyc.

PROVENÇAL, *a.* [Fr. *provençal*.] Pertaining to Provence, in France.

PROVENDER, *n.* [Fr. *proviende*, *proviender*; Norm. *provender*, a prebendary; *pro-*

*rendre*, a prebend; D. *prove*, a prebend; [qu. G. D. Sw. *proviand*, provisions;] It. *provianda*, victuals; Ir. *proantain*, provender. The Italian *provianda* is probably composed of *pro* and *vianda*, victuals, from *vivere*, L. *vivo*, to live, and from *vianda* the French have *viande*, Eng. *vind*. Whether the French *provende* and Norm. *provender* are from the same source, may be doubted. The German *proviand* may be formed from the L. *provideo*, Sp. *proveer*, Port. *prover*. Qu. L. *proventus*. It is said that *provend*, *provender*, originally signified a vessel containing a measure of corn daily given to a horse or other beast. But qu. *N* may be casual in *provender*, as in *messenger*, and the word may be from *provideo*.]

1. Dry food for beasts, usually meal, or a mixture of meal and cut straw or hay. In a more general sense, it may signify dry food of any kind. Swift. Mortimer.

2. Provisions; meat; food. Core.

[Not used of food for man in New England.]

PROVER, *n.* One that proves or tries; that which proves.

PROVERB, *n.* [Fr. *proverbe*; It. *proverbio*; L. *proverbium*; *pro* and *verbum*, a word.]

1. A short sentence often repeated, expressing a well known truth or common fact, ascertained by experience or observation; a maxim of wisdom.

The *proverb* is true, that light gains make heavy purses, for light gains come often, great gains now and then. Bacon.

2. A by-word; a name often repeated; and hence frequently, a reproach or object of contempt. Jer. xxiv.

3. In Scripture, it sometimes signifies a moral sentence or maxim that is enigmatical; a dark saying of the wise that requires interpretation. Prov. i.

4. *Proverbs*, a canonical book of the Old Testament, containing a great variety of wise maxims, rich in practical truths and excellent rules for the conduct of all classes of men.

PROVERB, *v. t.* To mention in a proverb.

[Not in use.] Milton.

2. To provide with a proverb. [Not in use.] Shak.

PROVERBIAL, *a.* Mentioned in a proverb; as a *proverbial* cure or remedy.

In case of excesses, I take the German *proverbial* cure, by a hair of the same beast, to be the worst in the world. Temple.

2. Comprised in a proverb; used or current as a proverb; as a *proverbial* saying or speech. Pope.

3. Pertaining to proverbs; resembling a proverb; suitable to a proverb; as a *proverbial* obscurity. Brown.

PROVERBIALIST, *n.* One who speaks proverbs. Langhorne.

PROVERBIALIZE, *v. t.* To make a proverb; to turn into a proverb, or to use proverbially. [Unusual.] Good.

PROVERBIALLY, *adv.* In a proverb; as, it is *proverbially* said. Brown.

PROVIDE, *v. t.* [L. *provideo*, literally to see before; *pro* and *video*, to see; Fr. *pourvoir*; It. *provvedere*; Sp. *proveer*; Port. *prover*.]

1. To procure beforehand; to get, collect or make ready for future use; to prepare.

Abraham said, God will *provide* himself a lamb for a burnt-offering. Gen. xxii.

*Provide* neither gold nor silver nor brass in your purses. Matt. x.

*Provide* things honest in the sight of all men. Rom. xii.

2. To furnish; to supply; followed by *with*.

Rome, by the care of the magistrates, was well *provided* with corn. Arbuthnot.

*Provided* of is now obsolete.

3. To stipulate previously. The agreement *provides* that the party shall incur no loss.

4. To make a previous conditional stipulation. [See *Provided*.]

5. To foresee; a *Latinism*. [Not in use.] B. Jonson.

6. *Provide*, in a transitive sense, is followed by *against* or *for*. We *provide* warm clothing *against* the inclemencies of the weather; we *provide* necessaries *against* a time of need; or we *provide* warm clothing *for* winter, &c.

PROVIDE, *v. i.* To procure supplies or means of defense; or to take measures for counteracting or escaping an evil. The sagacity of brutes in *providing* against the inclemencies of the weather is wonderful.

Government is a contrivance of human wisdom to *provide* for human wants. Burke.

PROVIDED, *pp.* Procured beforehand; made ready for future use; supplied; furnished; stipulated.

2. Stipulated as a condition, which condition is expressed in the following sentence or words; as, "*provided* that nothing in this act shall prejudice the rights of any person whatever." This sentence is in the nature of the case absolute, the clause or sentence independent; "*this or that being provided*, which follows;" "*this condition being provided*." The word *being* is understood, and the participle *provided* agrees with the whole sentence absolute. "*This condition being previously stipulated or established*." *This* and *that* here refer to the whole member of the sentence.

PROVIDENCE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *providentia*.]

1. The act of providing or preparing for future use or application.

*Providence* for war is the best prevention of it. [Now little used.] Bacon.

2. Foresight; timely care; particularly, active foresight, or foresight accompanied with the procurement of what is necessary for future use, or with suitable preparation. How many of the troubles and perplexities of life proceed from want of *providence*!

3. In theology, the care and superintendence which God exercises over his creatures. He that acknowledges a creation and denies a *providence*, involves himself in a palpable contradiction; for the same power which caused a thing to exist is necessary to continue its existence. Some persons admit a *general providence*, but deny a *particular providence*, not considering that a *general providence* consists of *particulars*. A belief in divine *providence*, is a source of great consolation to good men. By *divine providence* is often understood God himself.

4. Prudence in the management of one's concerns or in private economy.