

PREVARICATE, *v. i.* [It. *prevaricare*; Sp. *prevaricar*; Fr. *prevariquer*; L. *prævaricor*; *præ* and *varico*, *varicor*, to straddle.]

1. To shuffle; to quibble; to shift or turn from one side to the other, from the direct course or from truth; to play foul play.

I would think better of himself, than that he would wilfully *prevaricate*. *Stillingfleet.*

2. In the civil law, to collude; as where an informer colludes with the defendant, and makes a sham prosecution. *Encyc.*

3. In English law, to undertake a thing falsely and deceitfully, with the purpose of defeating or destroying it. *Cowel.*

PREVARICATE, *v. t.* To pervert; to corrupt; to evade by a quibble. [But in a transitive sense, this word is seldom or never used.]

PREVARICATION, *n.* A shuffling or quibbling to evade the truth or the disclosure of truth; the practice of some trick for evading what is just or honorable; a deviation from the plain path of truth and fair dealing. *Addison.*

2. In the civil law, the collusion of an informer with the defendant, for the purpose of making a sham prosecution. *Encyc.*

3. In common law, a seeming to undertake a thing falsely or deceitfully, for the purpose of defeating or destroying it. *Cowel.*

4. A secret abuse in the exercise of a public office or commission. *Encyc.*

PREVARICATOR, *n.* One that prevaricates; a shuffler; a quibbler.

2. A sham dealer; one who colludes with a defendant in a sham prosecution. *Civil Law.*

3. One who abuses his trust.

PREVENIRE, *v. t.* [L. *prævenio*; *præ*, before, and *venio*, to come.]

Literally, to come before; hence, to hinder. [Not used.] *Philips.*

PREVENIENT, *a.* [L. *præveniens*.] Going before; preceding; hence, preventive; as *prævenient* grace. *Milton.*

PREVENT, *v. t.* [It. *prevenire*; Sp. Fr. *prevenir*; L. *prævenio*, *supra*.]

1. To go before; to precede.

I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried. Ps. cxix.

2. To precede, as something unexpected or unsought.

The days of my affliction prevented me. Job xxx. 2 Sam. xxii

3. To go before; to precede; to favor by anticipation or by hindering distress or evil.

The God of my mercy shall prevent me. Ps. lix.

Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favor. *Common Prayer.*

4. To anticipate.

Their ready guilt preventing thy commands. *Pope.*

5. To preoccupy; to pre-engage; to attempt first.

Thou hast prevented us with overtures of love. *K. Charles.*

[In all the preceding senses, the word is obsolete.]

6. To hinder; to obstruct; to intercept the approach or access of. This is now the only sense. No foresight or care will prevent every misfortune. Religion supplies consolation under afflictions which cannot

be prevented. It is easier to prevent an evil than to remedy it.

Too great confidence in success, is the likeliest to prevent it. *Atterbury.*

PREVENT, *v. i.* To come before the usual time. [Not in use.] *Bacon.*

PREVENTABLE, *a.* That may be prevented or hindered. *Reynolds.*

PREVENTED, *pp.* Hindered from happening or taking effect.

PREVENTER, *n.* One that goes before. [Not in use.] *Bacon.*

2. One that hinders; a hinderer; that which hinders; as a preventer of evils or of disease.

PREVENTING, *ppr.* Going before. *Obs.*

2. Hindering; obviating.

PREVENTINGLY, *adv.* In such a manner or way as to hinder. *Dr. Walker.*

PREVENTION, *n.* [Fr.] The act of going before. *Obs.*

2. Preoccupation; anticipation. [Little used.] *Hammond.*

3. The act of hindering; hindrance; obstruction of access or approach.

Prevention of sin is one of the greatest mercies God can vouchsafe. *South.*

4. Prejudice; prepossession; a French sense, but not in use in English. *Dryden.*

PREVENTIONAL, *a.* Tending to prevent. *Dict.*

PREVENTIVE, *a.* Tending to hinder; hindering the access of; as a medicine preventive of disease. *Brown.*

PREVENTIVE, *n.* That which prevents; that which intercepts the access or approach of. Temperance and exercise are excellent preventives of debility and languor.

2. An antidote previously taken. A medicine may be taken as a preventive of disease.

PREVENTIVELY, *adv.* By way of prevention; in a manner that tends to hinder.

PREVIOUS, *a.* [L. *præviuus*; *præ*, before, and *via*, way, that is, a going, Sax. *wag*.]

Going before in time; being or happening before something else; antecedent; prior; as a previous intimation of a design; a previous notion; a previous event.

Sound from the mountain, previous to the storm,

Rolls o'er the muttering earth. *Thomson.*

PREVIOUSLY, *adv.* In time preceding; beforehand; antecedently; as a plan previously formed.

PREVIOUSNESS, *n.* Antecedence; priority in time.

PREVISION, *n.* *s* as *z*. [L. *prævisus*, *prævideo*; *præ*, before, and *video*, to see.]

Foresight; foreknowledge; prescience. *Encyc.*

PREWARN, *v. t.* [See *Warn*.] To warn beforehand; to give previous notice of. *Bacon.*

PREY, *n.* [L. *præda*; It. *preda*; Fr. *proie*; Arm. *prey* or *preih*; D. *prooi*. In Welsh, *praz*, Ir. *preil*, signifies booty or spoil of cattle taken in war, also a flock or herd; *preiziaw*, to herd, to collect a herd, to drive off or make booty of cattle.]

1. Spoil; booty; plunder; goods taken by force from an enemy in war.

And they brought the captives and the prey and the spoil to Moses and Eleazar the priest. Num. xxxi.

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In this passage, the captives are distinguished from prey. But sometimes persons are included.

They [Judah] shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies. 2 Kings xxi.

2. That which is seized or may be seized by violence to be devoured; ravine. The eagle and the hawk dart upon their prey.

She sees herself the monster's prey. *Dryden.*

The old lion perisheth for lack of prey. Job iv.

3. Ravage; depredation.

Hog in sloth, fox in stealth, lion in prey. *Shak.*

Animal or beast of prey, is a carnivorous animal; one that feeds on the flesh of other animals. The word is applied to the larger animals, as lions, tigers, hawks, vultures, &c. rather than to insects; yet an insect feeding on other insects may be called an animal of prey.

PREY, *v. i.* To prey on or upon, is to rob; to plunder; to pillage.

2. To feed by violence, or to seize and devour. The wolf preys on sheep; the hawk preys on chickens.

3. To corrode; to waste gradually; to cause to pine away. Grief preys on the body and spirits; envy and jealousy prey on the health.

Language is too faint to show
His rage of love; it preys upon his life;
He pines, he sickens, he despairs, he dies. *Addison.*

PREYER, *n.* He or that which preys; a plunderer; a waster; a devourer.

PREYING, *ppr.* Plundering; corroding; wasting gradually.

PRICE, *n.* [Fr. *prix*; It. *prezzo*; Sp. *precio*; Arm. *pris*; D. *prys*; G. *preis*; Dan. *pris*; W. *pris* or *prid*; *prisiaw*, to value, to appraise; *pridiaw*, to give a price, value or equivalent, to pawn, to ransom; L. *pretium*. See *Praise*.]

1. The sum or amount of money at which a thing is valued, or the value which a seller sets on his goods in market. A man often sets a price on goods which he cannot obtain, and often takes less than the price set.

2. The sum or equivalent given for an article sold; as the price paid for a house, an ox or a watch.

3. The current value or rate paid for any species of goods; as the market price of wheat.

4. Value; estimation; excellence; worth.

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. Prov. xxxi.

5. Reward; recompense.

That vice may merit; 'tis the price of toil;
The knave deserves it when he tills the soil. *Pope.*

The price of redemption, is the atonement of Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. vi.

A price in the hands of a fool, the valuable offers of salvation, which he neglects. Prov. xvii.

PRICE, *v. t.* To pay for. [Not in use.] *Spenser.*

2. To set a price on. [See *Prize*.]

PRICELESS, *a.* Invaluable; too valuable to admit of a price. *Shak.*

2. Without value; worthless or unsalable. *J. Barlow.*

PRICK, *v. t.* [Sax. *priccian*; D. *prikken*; Dan. *prikker*; Sw. *pricka*; Ir. *priccam*.]