

are to be used; as, to *prescribe* for a patient in a fever.

2. To give law; to influence arbitrarily.

A forwardness to *prescribe* to the opinions of others. *Locke.*

3. In law, to claim by prescription; to claim a title to a thing by immemorial use and enjoyment; with *for*. A man may be allowed to *prescribe* for a right of way, a common or the like; a man cannot *prescribe* for a castle; he can *prescribe* only for incorporeal hereditaments. *Blackstone.*

4. To influence by long use. [*Not in use.*] *Brown.*

PRESCRIBED, *pp.* Directed; ordered.

PRESCRIBER, *n.* One that prescribes.

PRESCRIBING, *ppr.* Directing; giving as a rule of conduct or treatment.

PRESCRIPT, *a.* [*L. præsriptus.*] Directed; prescribed. *Hooker.*

PRESCRIPT, *n.* [*L. præsriptum.*] A direction; a medical order for the use of medicines. [*But prescription is chiefly used.*]

2. Direction; precept; model prescribed.

PRESCRIPTIBLE, *a.* That may be prescribed for.

PRESCRIPTION, *n.* [*L. præscriptio.* See *Prescribe.*]

1. The act of prescribing or directing by rules; or that which is prescribed; particularly, a medical direction of remedies for a disease and the manner of using them; a recipe.

2. In law, a prescribing for title; the claim of title to a thing by virtue of immemorial use and enjoyment; or the right to a thing derived from such use. *Prescription* differs from *custom*, which is a local usage. *Prescription* is a *personal* usage, usage annexed to the person. Nothing but incorporeal hereditaments can be claimed by *prescription*. *Blackstone.*

The use and enjoyment of navigation and fishery in the sea, for any length of time, does not create a title by *prescription*. The common right of nations to the use and enjoyment of the sea is *imprescriptible*; it cannot be lost by a particular nation for want of use. *Vattel.*

3. In *Scots law*, the title to lands acquired by uninterrupted possession for the time which the law declares to be sufficient, or 40 years. This is *positive* prescription. *Negative* prescription is the loss or omission of a right by neglecting to use it during the time limited by law. This term is also used for *limitation*, in the recovery of money due by bond, &c. Obligations are lost by *prescription*, or neglect of prosecution for the time designated by law. *Encyc.*

PRESCRIPTIVE, *a.* Consisting in or acquired by immemorial use and enjoyment; as a *prescriptive* right or title.

The right to be drowsy in protracted toil, has become *prescriptive*. *J. M. Mason.*

2. Pleading the continuance and authority of custom. *Hurd.*

PRES'EANCE, *n.* [*Fr.*] Priority of place in sitting. [*Not in use.*] *Carew.*

PRES'ENCE, *n.* *s* as *z.* [*Fr.* from *L. præsens*; *præ*, before, and *esse*, to be.]

1. The existence of a person or thing in a certain place; opposed to *absence*. This event happened during the king's *presence*

at the theater. In examining the patient, the *presence* of fever was not observed. The *presence* of God is not limited to any place.

2. A being in company near or before the face of another. We were gratified with the *presence* of a person so much respected.

3. Approach face to face or nearness of a great personage.

Men that very *presence* fear,
Which once they knew authority did bear. *Daniel.*

4. State of being in view; sight. An accident happened in the *presence* of the court.

5. *By way of distinction*, state of being in view of a superior.
I know not by what pow'r I am made bold,
In such a *presence* here to plead my thoughts. *Shak.*

6. A number assembled before a great person.

Odmar, of all this *presence* does contain,
Give her your wreath whom you esteem most fair. *Dryden.*

7. Port; mien; air; personal appearance; demeanor.

Virtue is best in a body that is comely, and that has rather dignity of *presence*, than beauty of aspect. *Bacon.*

A graceful *presence* bespeaks acceptance. *Collier.*

8. The apartment in which a prince shows himself to his court.

An't please your grace, the two great cardinals
Wait in the *presence*. *Shak.*

9. The person of a superior. *Milton.*
Presence of mind, a calm, collected state of the mind with its faculties at command; undisturbed state of the thoughts, which enables a person to speak or act without disorder or embarrassment in unexpected difficulties.

Errors, not to be recalled, do find
Their best redress from *presence* of the mind. *Waller.*

PRES'ENCE-CHAMBER, } *n.* The room
PRES'ENCE-ROOM, } *n.* in which a
great personage receives company. *Addison.*

PRESENSA'TION, *n.* [*pre* and *sensation.*] Previous notion or idea. *More.*

PRESEN'SION, *n.* [*L. præsensio*, *præsensio*; *præ* and *sentio*, to perceive.] Previous perception. [*Little used.*] *Brown.*

PRES'ENT, *a.* *s* as *z.* [*Fr.* *présent*; *L.* *præsens*; *præ* and *sum*, *esse*, to be.]

1. Being in a certain place; opposed to *absent*.

2. Being before the face or near; being in company. Inquire of some of the gentlemen *present*.

These things have I spoken unto you, being yet *present* with you. *John xiv.*

3. Being now in view or under consideration. In the *present* instance, facts will not warrant the conclusion. The *present* question must be decided on different principles.

4. Now existing, or being at this time; not past or future; as the *present* session of congress. The court is in session at the *present* time. We say, a *present* good, the *present* year or age.

5. Ready at hand; quick in emergency; as *present* wit.

'Tis a high point of philosophy and virtue for a man to be *present* to himself. *L'Estrange.*

6. Favorably attentive; not heedless; propitious.

Nor could I hope in any place but there
To find a god so *present* to my prayer. *Dryden.*

7. Not absent of mind; not abstracted; attentive.

The *present*, an elliptical expression for the *present* time. *Milton.*

At *present*, elliptically for, at the *present* time.

Present tense, in grammar, the tense or form of a verb which expresses action or being in the present time, as *I am writing*; or something that exists at all times, as *virtue is always* to be preferred to vice; or it expresses habits or general truths, as plants *spring* from the earth; fishes *swim*; reptiles *creep*; birds *fly*; some animals *subsist* on herbage, others *are* carnivorous.

PRES'ENT, *n.* [*Fr. id.* See the Verb.] That which is presented or given; a gift; a donative; something given or offered to another gratuitously; a word of general application. *Gen. xxxii.*

Presents, in the plural, is used in law for a deed of conveyance, a lease, letter of attorney or other writing; as in the phrase, "Know all men by these *presents*," that is, by the writing itself, *per presentes*. In this sense, it is rarely used in the singular.

PRESENT, *v. t.* [*Low L. præsento*; *Fr. presenter*; *It. presentare*; *Sp. presentar*; *L. præsens*; *præ*, before, and *sum*, *esse*, to be.]

1. To set, place or introduce into the presence or before the face of a superior, as to *present* an envoy to the king; and with the reciprocal pronoun, to come into the presence of a superior.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to *present themselves* before the Lord. *Job i.*

2. To exhibit to view or notice. The top of Mount Holyoke, in Hampshire county, in Massachusetts, *presents* one of the finest prospects in America.

3. To offer; to exhibit.
O hear what to my mind first thoughts *present*. *Milton.*

He is ever ready to *present* to us the thoughts or observations of others. *Watts.*

4. To give; to offer gratuitously for reception. The first President of the American Bible Society, *presented* to that institution ten thousand dollars.

5. To put into the hands of another in ceremony.

So ladies in romance assist their knight,
Present the spear, and arm him for the fight. *Pope.*

6. To favor with a gift; as, we *present* a man with a suit of clothes. Formerly the phrase was, to *present* a person.

Octavia *presented* the poet, for his admirable elegy on her son Marcellus. *Dryden.*
[*This use is obsolete.*]

7. To nominate to an ecclesiastical benefice; to offer to the bishop or ordinary as a candidate for institution.

The patron of a church may *present* his clerk to a parsonage or vicarage; that is, may offer him to the bishop of the diocese to be instituted. *Blackstone.*

8. To offer.