

7. To incite; to rouse; as, to *provoke* one to anger. Deut. xxxii.

PROVOKE, *v. i.* To appeal. [*A Latinism, not used.*] Dryden.

PROVOKED, *pp.* Excited; roused; incited; made angry; incensed.

PROVOKER, *n.* One that excites anger or other passion; one that excites war or sedition.

2. That which excites, causes or promotes. Shak.

PROVOKING, *ppr.* Exciting into action; inciting; inducing by motives; making angry.

2. *a.* Having the power or quality of exciting resentment; tending to awaken passion; as *provoking* words; *provoking* treatment.

PROVOKINGLY, *adv.* In such a manner as to excite anger.

PROVOST, *n.* [*Sax. profost, profust*; Dan. *provst*; G. *probst, propst*; Arm. *provost*; Fr. *prevôt*; Port. Sp. *preboste*; It. *proposto*; from the L. *propositus*, placed before, from *propono*; *præ* and *pono*, to set or place.]

In a general sense, a person who is appointed to superintend or preside over something; the chief magistrate of a city or town; as the *provost* of Edinburgh or of Glasgow, answering to the *mayor* of other cities; the *provost* of a college, answering to *president*. In France, formerly, a *provost* was an inferior judge who had cognizance of civil causes.

The *grand provost of France*, or of the household, had jurisdiction in the king's house and over its officers.

The *provost marshal of an army*, is an officer appointed to arrest and secure deserters and other criminals, to hinder the soldiers from pillaging, to indict offenders and see sentence passed on them and executed. He also regulates weights and measures. He has under him a lieutenant and a clerk, an executioner, &c.

The *provost marshal in the navy*, has charge of prisoners, &c.

The *provost of the mint*, is a particular judge appointed to apprehend and prosecute false coiners.

Provost of the king's stables, is an officer who attends at court and holds the king's stirrup when he mounts his horse.

PROVOSTSHIP, *n.* The office of a provost. Hakewill.

PROW, *n.* [*Fr. proue*; It. *prua* and *proda*; Sp. *proa*. These may be from the L. *prora*; but *qu.* is not *proda* the original word, and *proa* a contraction of *prodera*? The primary sense is that which projects or stretches forward.]

1. The forepart of a ship. Dryden.

2. In *seamen's language*, the beak or pointed outwater of a xebec or galley. The upper part is usually furnished with a grating platform. Mar. Dict.

3. The name of a particular kind of vessel used in the East Indian seas.

PROW, *a.* Valiant. [*Not in use.*] Spenser.

PROWESS, *n.* [*Fr. prouesse*; It. *prodezza*, from *prade*, brave, and as a noun, profit, benefit; Sp. *proeza*. The primary sense

of the root is to stretch, shoot or advance forward, and hence the sense of profit.]

Bravery; valor; particularly, military bravery; gallantry; intrepidity in war; fearlessness of danger.

Men of such *prowess* as not to know fear in themselves. Sidney.

PROWEST, *a.* [*superl. of prow.*] Bravest. [*Not in use.*] Spenser.

PROWL, *v. i.* [I know not the origin of this word, nor from what source it is derived. It may be derived from the root of *stroll*, *troll*, with a different prefix.] To rove over.

He *prows* each place, still in new colors deck'd. Sidney.

PROWL, *v. i.* To rove or wander, particularly for prey, as a wild beast; as a *prowling* wolf. Milton.

2. To rove and plunder; to prey; to plunder. Tusser.

PROWL, *n.* A roving for prey; colloquially, something to be seized and devoured.

PROWLER, *n.* One that roves about for prey. Thomson.

PROWLING, *ppr.* Wandering about in search of prey or plunder.

PROXIMAL. [*See Proximate.*]

PROXIMATE, *a.* [*L. superl. proximus*; Fr. *proche*; *approcher*, to approach; *reprocher*, to reproach. The primary sense of the root is to drive or press. See Class Brg.]

Nearest; next. A *proximate* cause is that which immediately precedes and produces the effect, as distinguished from the remote, *mediate* or *predisposing* cause.

PROXIMATELY, *adv.* Immediately; by immediate relation to or effect on. Bentley.

PROXIME, *a.* Next; immediately. [*Not used.*] Watts.

PROXIMITY, *n.* [*Fr. proximité*; L. *proximitas*.]

The state of being next; immediate nearness either in place, blood or alliance. The succession to the throne and to estates is usually regulated by *proximity* of blood. Dryden. Swift.

PROXY, *n.* [*contracted from procuracy*, or some word from the root of *procure*, *proctor*.]

1. The agency of another who acts as a substitute for his principal; agency of a substitute; appearance of a representative. None can be familiar by *proxy*. None can be virtuous or wise by *proxy*.

2. The person who is substituted or deputed to act for another. A wise man will not commit important business to a *proxy*, when he can transact it in person. In England, any peer may make another lord of parliament his *proxy* to vote for him in his absence. Blackstone.

3. In *popular use*, an election or day of voting for officers of government.

PROXYSHIP, *n.* The office or agency of a proxy.

PRUCE, *n.* [*from Prussia.*] Prussian leather. [*Not in use.*] Dryden.

PRUDE, *n.* [*Fr. prude*, wise, discrete, sober, formal, precise; D. *preutsich*, prudish, and proud; G. *spröde*, a prude, and shy, cold, reserved, coy, demure, and applied to metals, brittle, friable; Dan. *sprödig*, eager,

brittle, harsh, dry, rugged; W. *pruz*, [*prudh*.] prudent, discrete, serious, sad, sorrowful; Goth. *frods*, prudent; Gr. *φραδρ*, prudence; Goth. *frathi*, mind, intellect; *frathyan*, to be wise, to understand. The Goth. *frod* signifies both wise, prudent, and broken; D. *vroed*, prudent. We see that *prude*, *prudent*, and *proud* are from the same root. The sense of *brittle* would indicate that these words belong to the same family with the Dan. *brøder*, to break; and the radical elements are the same. The Welsh *pruz* is from tending out or reaching, hence *pryder*, anxiety, a stretching of the mind. The sense of *prude* is probably from stretching, straitness, stiffness; and the sense of *wise* is derivative. *Prudence* is from the same root, implying care, a tension of mind.]

A woman of great reserve, coyness, affected stiffness of manners and scrupulous nicety.

Less modest than the speech of *prudes*. Swift.

PRUDENCE, *n.* [*Fr. from L. prudentia*; It. *prudenza*; Sp. *prudencia*. See *Prude*.]

Wisdom applied to practice. Johnson.

Prudence implies caution in deliberating and consulting on the most suitable means to accomplish valuable purposes, and the exercise of sagacity in discerning and selecting them. Prudence differs from wisdom in this, that prudence implies more caution and reserve than wisdom, or is exercised more in foreseeing and avoiding evil, than in devising and executing that which is good. It is sometimes mere caution or circumspection.

Prudence is principally in reference to actions to be done, and due means, order, season and method of doing or not doing. Hale.

PRUDENT, *a.* Cautious; circumspect; practically wise; careful of the consequences of enterprises, measures or actions; cautious not to act when the end is of doubtful utility, or probably impracticable.

The *prudent* man looketh well to his going. Prov. xiv.

A *prudent* man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself. Prov. xxii.

2. Dictated or directed by prudence; as *prudent* behavior.

3. Foreseeing by instinct; as the *prudent* crane. Milton.

4. Frugal; economical; as a *prudent* woman; *prudent* expenditure of money.

5. Wise; intelligent.

PRUDENTIAL, *a.* Proceeding from prudence; dictated or prescribed by prudence; as *prudential* motives; *prudential* rules.

2. Superintending the discretionary concerns of a society; as a *prudential* committee. N. England.

PRUDENTIALITY, *n.* The quality of being prudential; eligibility on principles of prudence. [*Not used.*] Brown.

PRUDENTIALLY, *adv.* In conformity with prudence; prudently. South.

PRUDENTIALS, *n. plu.* Maxims of prudence or practical wisdom.

Many stanzas in poetic measures contain rules relating to common *prudentials*, as well as to religion. Watts.

2. The subordinate discretionary concerns