

2. With excess of formality; with scrupulous exactness or punctiliousness in behavior or ceremony.

PRECISENESS, *n.* Exactness; rigid nicety; as the *preciseness* of words or expressions.

I will distinguish the cases; though give me leave, in handling them, not to sever them with too much *preciseness*. *Bacon.*

2. Excessive regard to forms or rules; rigid formality.

PRECISIAN, *n. s* as *z*. One that limits or restrains. *Shak.*

2. One who is rigidly or ceremoniously exact in the observance of rules.

Drayton. Watts.

PRECISIANISM, *n.* Excessive exactness; superstitious rigor. *Milton.*

[These two words are, I believe, little used, or not at all.]

PRECISION, *n. s* as *z*. [Fr. from *L. præcisio*.] Exact limitation; exactness; accuracy. *Precision* in the use of words is a prime excellence in discourse; it is indispensable in controversy, in legal instruments and in mathematical calculations. Neither perspicuity nor *precision* should be sacrificed to ornament.

PRECISIVE, *a.* Exactly limiting by separating what is not relative to the purpose; as *precisive* abstraction. *Watts.*

PRECLUDE, *v. t.* [*L. præcludo*; *præ*, before, and *cludo*, *claudio*, to shut.]

1. To prevent from entering by previously shutting the passage, or by any previous measures; hence, to hinder from access, possession or enjoyment. Sin, by its very nature, *precludes* the sinner from heaven; it *precludes* the enjoyment of God's favor; or it *precludes* the favor of God.

The valves *preclude* the blood from entering the veins. *Darwin.*

2. To prevent from happening or taking place.

PRECLUDED, *pp.* Hindered from entering or enjoyment; debarred from something by previous obstacles.

PRECLUDING, *ppr.* Shutting out; preventing from access or possession or from having place.

PRECLUSION, *n. s* as *z*. The act of shutting out or preventing from access or possession; the state of being prevented from entering, possession or enjoyment.

Rambler.

PRECLUSIVE, *a.* Shutting out, or tending to preclude; hindering by previous obstacles. *Burke.*

PRECLUSIVELY, *adv.* With hinderance by anticipation.

PRECOCIOUS, *a.* [*L. præcor*; *præ*, before, and *coquo*, to cook or prepare.]

1. Ripe before the proper or natural time; as *precocious* trees. *Brown.*

2. Premature.

PRECOCIOUSNESS, } *n.* Rapid growth
PRECOCITY, } and ripeness
before the usual time; prematureness.

Howell.

I cannot learn that he gave, in his youth, any evidence of that *precocity* which sometimes distinguishes uncommon genius.

Wirt's Life of P. Henry.

PRECOGITATE, *v. t.* [*L. præcogito*; *præ* and *cogito*.]

To consider or contrive beforehand. [*Little used.*] *Sherwood.*

PRECOGITATION, *n.* Previous thought or consideration. *Dict.*

PRECIGNITA. [See *Præcognita*.]

PRECIGNITION, *n.* [*L. præ*, before, and *cognitio*, knowledge.]

1. Previous knowledge; antecedent examination. *Folgerby.*

2. In *Scots law*, an examination of witnesses to a criminal act, before a judge, justice of the peace or sheriff, before the prosecution of the offender, in order to know whether there is ground of trial, and to enable the prosecutor to set forth the facts in the libel. *Encyc.*

PRECOMPOSE, *v. t.* [See *Compose*.] To compose beforehand. *Johnson.*

PRECOMPOSED, *pp.* Composed beforehand.

PRECOMPOSING, *ppr.* Composing beforehand.

PRECONCEIT, *n.* [See *Preconceive*.] An opinion or notion previously formed.

Hooker.

PRECONCEIVE, *v. t.* [*L. præ*, before, and *concepio*, to conceive.]

To form a conception or opinion beforehand; to form a previous notion or idea.

In a dead plain, the way seems the longer, because the eye has *preconceived* it shorter than the truth. *Bacon.*

PRECONCEIVED, *pp.* Conceived beforehand; previously formed; as *preconceived* opinions; *preconceived* ends or purposes.

South.

PRECONCEIVING, *ppr.* Conceiving or forming beforehand.

PRECONCEPTION, *n.* Conception or opinion previously formed. *Hakewill.*

PRECONCERT, *v. t.* [*præ* and *concert*.] To concert beforehand; to settle by previous agreement.

PRECONCERTED, *pp.* Previously concerted or settled. *Warton.*

PRECONCERTING, *ppr.* Contriving and settling beforehand.

PRECONIZATION, *n.* [*L. præconium*, from *præco*, a crier.]

A publishing by proclamation, or a proclamation. [*Not used.*] *Hall.*

PRECONSIGN, *v. t.* [*præ* and *consign*.] To consign beforehand; to make a previous consignment of.

PRECONSTITUTE, *v. t.* [*præ* and *constitute*.]

To constitute or establish beforehand.

PRECONSTITUTED, *pp.* Previously established. *Palcy.*

PRECONSTITUTING, *ppr.* Constituting beforehand.

PRECONTRACT, *n.* [*præ* and *contract*.] A contract previos to another. *Shak.*

PRECONTRACT, *v. t.* To contract or stipulate previously.

PRECONTRACT, *v. i.* To make a previous contract or agreement.

PRECONTRACTED, *pp.* Previously contracted or stipulated; previously engaged by contract; as a woman *precontracted* to another man. *Ayliffe.*

PRECONTRACTING, *ppr.* Stipulating or covenanting beforehand.

PRECURSE, *n. præcur*! [*L. præcursor*, *præcurro*; *præ* and *curro*, to run.]

A forerunning. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

PRECURSOR, *n.* [*L. præcursor*, supra.]

A forerunner; a harbinger; he or that which precedes an event and indicates its approach; as Jove's lightnings, the *precursors* of thunder. *Shak.*

A cloud in the southwest, in winter, is often the *precursor* of a snow storm. A hazy atmosphere in the west, at sunset, is often the *precursor* of a cloudy or of a rainy day. *U. States.*

Evil thoughts are the invisible, airy *precursors* of all the storms and tempests of the soul.

Buckminster.

PRECURSORY, *a.* Preceding as the harbinger; indicating something to follow; as *precursory* symptoms of a fever.

Med. Repos.

PRECURSORY, *n.* An introduction. [*Not used.*] *Hammond.*

PREDACEOUS, *a.* [*L. prædaceus*, from *præda*, prey, spoil.]

Living by prey.

Derham.

PREDAL, *a.* [*L. præda*, prey.] Pertaining to prey.

2. Practicing plunder.

Boyle.

PREDATORY, *a.* [*L. prædatorius*, from *præda*, prey.]

1. Plundering; pillaging; characterized by plundering; practicing rapine; as a *predatory* war; a *predatory* excursion; a *predatory* party.

2. Hungry; ravenous; as *predatory* spirits or appetite. [*Hardly allowable.*] *Bocon.*

PREDECEASE, *v. i.* [*præ* and *decease*.] To die before. *Shak.*

PREDECEASED, *a.* Dead before. *Shak.*

PREDECESSOR, *n.* [Fr. *prédécesseur*; *L. præ* and *decedo*, to depart.]

A person who has preceded another in the same office. The king, the president, the judge, or the magistrate, follows the steps of his *predecessor*, or he does not imitate the example of his *predecessors*. It is distinguished from *ancestor*, who is of the same blood; but it may perhaps be sometimes used for it. *Hooker. Addison.*

PREDESIGN, *v. t.* To design or purpose beforehand; to predetermine.

PREDESIGNED, *pp.* Purposed or determined previously. *Mitford.*

PREDESIGNING, *ppr.* Designing previously.

PREDESTINARIAN, *n.* [See *Predestinate*.]

One that believes in the doctrine of predestination. *Walton.*

PREDESTINATE, *a.* Predestinated; foreordained. *Burnet.*

PREDESTINATE, *v. t.* [It. *predestinare*; Fr. *predestiner*; *L. prædestino*; *præ* and *destino*, to appoint.]

To predetermine or foreordain; to appoint or ordain beforehand by an unchangeable purpose.

Whom he did foreknow, he also did *predestinate* to be conformed to the image of his Son. Rom. viii.

Having *predestinated* us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself. Eph. i.

PREDESTINATED, *pp.* Predetermined; foreordained; decreed.

PREDESTINATING, *ppr.* Foreordaining; decreeing; appointing beforehand by an unchangeable purpose.

2. Holding predestination.

And picks up his *predestinating* ears. *Dryden.*