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2) In prototype-based programming, a prototype is an original [object](#); new objects are created by copying the prototype.

3) In hardware design, a prototype is a "hand-built" model that represents a manufactured (easily replicable) product sufficiently for designers to visualize and test the design.

The word *prototype* comes from the Latin words *proto*, meaning *original*, and *typus*, meaning *form or model*. In a non-technical context, a prototype is an especially representative example of a given category.