

LESSON 7 – “Before and After”

Praemonitus, praemunitus.

Forewarned is forearmed.

Base Words

antebellum	avant-garde	preempt	pretentious
antecedent	precept	premonition	vanguard
anterior	predestination	preposterous	

ANTE <Latin> “before”

1. **antebellum** [**ante** + *bellum* <Latin> “war”]

adj. Of a period before a war, especially the American Civil War.

Gone with the Wind describes life in **antebellum** Georgia.

2. **antecedent** [**ante** + *cedere* <Latin> “to go”]

n. 1. A thing or event that precedes.

The Anglo-Saxon word *hlaef*, meaning “bread,” is the **antecedent** of the modern word loaf.

2. (grammar) The noun to which a pronoun refers.

In “She took a book and read it,” book is the **antecedent** of it.

adj. Preceding; going before.

Writing the final paper was **antecedent** to his passing the class.

Other Forms: **antecede**, v.

3. **anterior**

adj. Coming before in position or time.

The aquatic larval stage of a tadpole is **anterior** to the full-grown state of a frog.

4. **avant-garde**

adj. Ahead of the times, especially in the arts.

Although considered extremely **avant-garde** in the nineteenth century, Impressionist paintings are now so popular that they appear on calendars and greeting cards.

n. A group that is ahead of the times.

Fashions worn only by the **avant-garde** are seen everywhere after a few years.

5. **vanguard** [short for French “*avant garde*”]

n. 1. The foremost position, especially of an army or fleet.

At Agincourt, English archers decimated the French **vanguard** of mounted knights in armor.

2. Leaders of a movement, fashion, etc.

The **vanguard** of the French Revolution discarded their powdered wigs and wore their hair naturally.

PRE <Latin> “before”

6. **precept** [**pre** + *capere* <Latin> “to take”]

n. A command; a rule of conduct.

Although his parents tried to teach him the **precepts** of good manners, he remained tactless and inconsiderate.

7. **predestination** [**pre** + *destinare* <Latin> “to deter-”]

n. The belief that what happens in human life has already been determined by some higher power.

The couple felt that **predestination** had brought them together.

Other Forms: **predestinate**, v.; **predestine**, v.; **predestined**, adj.

8. **preempt**, pre-empt [**pre** + *emere* <Latin> “to buy”]

v. To take possession of something before anyone else can do so.

The president’s address **preempted** regular broadcasts.

Other Forms: **preemption**, n.; **preemptive**, adj.

9. **premonition** [**pre** + *monere* <Latin> “to warn”]

n. A warning in advance.

As she picked up the letter, she had a **premonition** that it carried bad news.

10. **preposterous** **pre** + *post* <Latin> “after”]

adj. Absurd; contrary to nature or reason.

The long skirts and high collars of the nineteenth century seem **preposterous** to active modern women.

Other Forms: **preposterously**, adv.; **preposterousness**, n.

11. **pretentious** [**pre** + *tendere* <Latin> “to extend”]

adj. Showy; pompous; claiming unjustified distinction.

They chose a hotel with **pretentious** furnishings but little comfort.

Other Forms: **pretension**, n.; **pretentiously**, adv.; **pretentiousness**, n.

Familiar Words

precaution	prefix	preposition	presume
precede	preoccupied	preside	prevail

Challenge Words

ante	preamble	preeminent	prescience
antedate	precipitate	premise	prevalent
antediluvian	précis	preponderant	prevaricate
ante meridiem	precocious	prerequisite	
anteroom	preconceive	prerogative	
