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Dictionary

prevent

verb | pre-vent | \pri-'vent\

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: to stop (something) from happening or existing

: to make (someone or something) not do something : to stop (someone or something) *from* doing something

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Full Definition of PREVENT

transitive verb

1 *archaic*

a : to be in readiness for (as an occasion)

b : to meet or satisfy in advance

c : to act ahead of

d : to go or arrive before

2 : to deprive of power or hope of acting or succeeding

3 : to keep from happening or existing <steps to *prevent* war>

4 : to hold or keep back : [HINDER](#), [STOP](#) —often used with *from*

intransitive verb

: to interpose an obstacle

— **pre-vent-abil-i-ty** | \-'ven-tə-'bi-lə-tē\ | *noun*

— **pre-vent-able** also **pre-vent-ible** | \-'ven-tə-bəl\ | *adjective*

— **pre-vent-er** | *noun*

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Examples of PREVENT

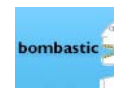
Seatbelts in cars often *prevent* serious injuries.



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Word of the Day

JUNE 04, 2015

swan song 

a last performance or piece of work



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Can exercise and a healthy diet *prevent* heart disease?

The accident could have been *prevented*.

He grabbed my arm to *prevent* me *from* falling.

Bad weather *prevented* us *from* leaving.

How are you going to *prevent* him *from* finding out about the party?

Origin of PREVENT

Middle English, to anticipate, from Latin *praeventus*, past participle of *praevenire* to come before, anticipate, forestall, from *prae-* + *venire* to come — more at [COME](#)

First Known Use: 15th century

Related to PREVENT

Synonyms
[avert](#), [forestall](#), [head off](#), [help](#), [obviate](#), [preclude](#), [stave off](#)

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Synonym Discussion of PREVENT

[PREVENT](#), [ANTICIPATE](#), [FORESTALL](#) mean to deal with beforehand.

[PREVENT](#) implies taking advance measures against something possible or probable <measures taken to *prevent* leaks>. [ANTICIPATE](#) may imply merely getting ahead of another by being a precursor or forerunner or it may imply checking another's intention by acting first <*anticipated* the question by making a statement>. [FORESTALL](#) implies a getting ahead so as to stop or interrupt something in its course <hoped to *forestall* the sale>.

Rhymes with PREVENT

[absent](#), [accent](#), [Advent](#), [anent](#), [ascent](#), [assent](#), [augment](#), [besprent](#), [cement](#), [comment](#), [consent](#), [content](#), [convent](#), [descent](#), [detent](#), [dissent](#), [do...](#)

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