



VIDEO & PODCAST TRANSCRIPT #018

PRESCRIBE and PROSCRIBE – What's the Difference?

Slide 1:

PRESCRIBE and PROSCRIBE – What's the Difference?

Slide 2:

Both words have the Latin root 'scrib' meaning write.

The prefix PRE- means before

The prefix PRO- means forward, forth

Prescribe literally means to write at the top, or to state in advance

Proscribe literally means to write publicly, for example, to publish the name of a condemned person

Slide 3:

Actually, the words are almost opposite in meaning.

Definition Of Prescribe: to lay down a rule, often in writing, to recommend a course of action

Definition Of Proscribe: to prohibit, condemn, forbid

Let's look at some examples.

First, PRESCRIBE . . .

Slide 4:

The picture shows a doctor with a patient.

The sentence reads: What did the doctor prescribe?

Slide 5:

The picture shows a girl with a mobile phone.

The sentence reads: When parents give their child a mobile phone, they often prescribe a set of rules.

Slide 6:

Now let's see some examples of PROSCRIBE . . .

Slide 7:

The picture shows a local government representative in a meeting.

The sentence reads: Legislation in many countries authorizes the government to proscribe terrorist organizations.

Slide 8:

The picture shows a book display at a library.

The sentence reads: Often, when a book is proscribed, it becomes a best seller!

Slide 9:

Now test yourself!

Fill in the blanks . . .

Slide 10:

The picture shows a mosque with a lot of shoes and sandals outside.

The sentence reads: Wearing shoes or sandals inside a mosque is strictly ___.

Slide 11:

Answer: proscribed

Slide 12:

The picture shows prescription drugs on a table.

The sentence reads: Some people are of the opinion that doctors ___ antibiotics too easily!

Slide 13:

Answer: prescribe

Slide 14:

The picture shows team members during a brainstorming session.

The sentence reads: In this brainstorming session, the team let their imaginations run wild!
There was no ___ way of doing things.

Slide 15:

Answer: proscribed or proscribed

(Note: Both words fit. There was no recommended or prescribed way and no forbidden or proscribed way)

Slide 16:

The picture shows students in an exam room.

The sentence reads: The use of cell phones was ___ during this maths exam.

Slide 17:

Answer: proscribed

Slide 18:

The picture shows a circular fire in forest.

The sentence reads: A "___ fire" is a planned fire which is controlled to help prevent wild fires.

Slide 19:

Answer: prescribed

Slide 20:

So Remember The Difference Between PRESCRIBE and PROSCRIBE

Prescribe involves recommending a course of action, often in writing, or laying down rules

Proscribe has the idea of forbidding, or prohibiting something

Slide 21:

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- Obsolete
- Sporadic
- Ludicrous
- Tantamount
- Sceptical

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