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pro·vost  (prō vōst', -vəst, prŏv əst)

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n.

1. A university administrator of high rank.
2. The highest official in certain cathedrals or collegiate churches.
3. The keeper of a prison.
4. The chief magistrate of certain Scottish cities.

[Middle English, from Old English *profost* and Old French *provost*, both from Medieval Latin *prōpositus*, alteration of Latin *praepositus*, person placed over others, superintendent, from past participle of *praepōnere*, to place over : *prae-*, pre- + *pōnere*, to put; see **apo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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