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dictionary

of the
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Language



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preach  (prĕch)

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v. **preached**, **preach·ing**, **preach·es**

v.tr.

1. To proclaim or put forth in a sermon: *preached the gospel*.
2. To advocate, especially to urge acceptance of or compliance with: *preached tolerance and peaceful coexistence*.
3. To deliver (a sermon).

v.intr.

1. To deliver a sermon.
2. To give religious or moral instruction, especially in a tedious manner.

Idiom:

preach to the choir/converted

To argue in favor of a viewpoint already held by one's audience.

[Middle English *prechen*, from Old French *preechier*, from Late Latin *praedicāre*, from Latin, to proclaim : *prae-*, pre- + *dicāre*, to proclaim; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

preach **ing·ly** *adv.*

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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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