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prej·u·dice  (prēj ə-dīś)

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n.

1.

a. The act or state of holding unreasonable preconceived judgments or convictions: *“This is not actually a volume of the best short stories ... These are just the stories that I like best, and I am full of prejudice and strong opinions”* (Ann Patchett).

b. An adverse judgment or opinion formed unfairly or without knowledge of the facts: *a boy with a prejudice against unfamiliar foods.*

2. Irrational suspicion or hatred of a particular social group, such as a race or the adherents of a religion.

3.

a. Detriment or harm caused to a person, especially in a legal case: *The delay operated to her prejudice.*

b. Preclusionary effect, preventing further pursuit of one's interests: *The case was dismissed with prejudice.*

tr.v. **prej·u·diced, prej·u·dic·ing, prej·u·dic·es**

1. To fill with prejudice or cause to judge with prejudice: *My rural upbringing has prejudiced me against living in the city.* See Synonyms at [bias](#).

2. To affect detrimentally or harmfully by a judgment or act: *Negative media coverage prejudiced people's opinion of the mayor.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *praeiudicium* : *prae-*, *pre-* + *iudicium*, judgment (from *iudex*, *iudic-*, judge; see **deik-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots).]

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