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prae·tor also **pre·tor**  (prē tər)

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n.

An annually elected magistrate of the ancient Roman Republic, ranking below but having approximately the same functions as a consul.

[Middle English *pretor*, from Old French, from Latin *praetor*, perhaps from *praeīre*, to go before : *prae-*, pre- + *īre*, to go; see *ei-* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

prae·to ri·al (prē-tôr ē-əl) *adj.*

prae tor·ship *n.*

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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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