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Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (proof)n.1. The evidence or argument that compels the mind to accept an assertion as true.2. a. The validation of a proposition by application of specified rules, as of induction or deduction, to assumptions, axioms, and sequentially derived conclusions.b. A statement or argument used in such a validation.3. a. Convincing or persuasive demonstration: was asked for proof of his identity; an employment history that was proof of her dependability.b. The state of being convinced or persuaded by consideration of evidence.4. Determination of the quality of something by testing; trial: put one's beliefs to the proof.5. Law a. The establishment of the truth or falsity of an allegation by evidence.b. The evidence offered in support of or in contravention of an allegation.6. The alcoholic strength of a liquor, expressed by a number that is twice the percentage by volume of alcohol present.7. Printing a. A trial sheet of printed material that is made to be checked and corrected. Also called proof sheet.b. A trial impression of a plate, stone, or block taken at any of various stages in engraving.8. a. A trial photographic print.b. Any of a limited number of newly minted coins or medals struck as specimens and for collectors from a new die on a polished planchet.9. Archaic Proven impenetrability: "I was clothed in Armor of proof" (John Bunyan).adj.1. Fully or successfully resistant; impervious. Often used in combination: waterproof watches; a fireproof cellar door.2. Of standard alcoholic strength: proof liquor.3. Used to proofread or correct typeset copy: a proof copy of the manuscript.v. proofed, proofing, proofs v.tr.1. To make a trial impression of a printed or engraved matter.2. a. To activate (dormant dry yeast) by adding water.b. To work (dough) into proper lightness.3. To treat so as to make resistant: proof a fabric against shrinkage.v.intr.1. Printing To proofread.2. To become properly light for cooking: The batter proofed overnight. [Middle English prove, preve, from Anglo-Norman prove and from Old French prueve, both from Late Latin proba, from Latin probare, to prove; see prove.] American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (pruf) n.1. Any evidence that establishes or helps to establish the truth, validity, quality, etc., of something.2. (Law) The whole body of evidence upon which the verdict of a court is based.3. (Mathematics) Maths logic A sequence of steps or statements that establishes the truth of a proposition. See also direct, induction,4. induction84. The act of testing the truth of something (esp. in the phrase put to the proof).5. (Law) Scots law trial before a judge without a jury.6. (Printing, Lithography & Bookbinding) printing a trial impression made from composed type, or a print-out (from a laser printer, etc.) for the correction of errors.7. (Art Terms) (in engraving, etc.) a print made by an artist or under his supervision for his own satisfaction before he hands the plate over to a professional printer.8. (Photography) a trial print from a negative.9. (Brewing) a. The alcoholic strength of proof spirit. The strength of a beverage or other alcoholic liquor as measured on a scale in which the strength of proof spirit is 100 degrees. adj.10. (folly by: against) able to resist; impervious to establish a thing as true or believable.2. anything serving as such evidence.3. The act of testing or trying anything; test; trial: to put a thing to the proof.4. The establishment of the truth of anything; demonstration.5. (in judicial proceedings) evidence that seems to substantiate or corroborate a charge or allegation.6. An arithmetical operation to establish the correctness of a calculation.7. Math., Logic. A sequence of steps, statements, or demonstrations that leads to a valid conclusion.8. A test to determine the quality, durability, etc., of materials used in manufacture.9. The strength of an alcoholic liquor, esp. with reference to the standard whereby 100 proof signifies an alcoholic content of 50 percent.10. Photog. A trial print from a negative.11. Print. a. A trial impression, as of composed type, taken to correct errors and make alterations.b. One of a number of early and superior impressions taken before the printing of the ordinary issue.12. One of a limited number of coins of a new issue struck from polished dies on a blank having a polished or matte surface.13. The state of having been tested. adj.14. Able to withstand; impenetrable, impervious, or invulnerable; proof against attack; proof against leakage.15. Used for testing or proving; serving as proof.16. Of standard strength, as an alcoholic liquor.17. Of tested or proven strength or quality: proof armor. v.t.18. To examine for flaws, errors, etc.; check against a standard.19. Print. prove (def. 7).21. To treat or coat for the purpose of rendering resistant to deterioration, damage, etc. (often used in combination).22. a. To combine (yeast) with warm water so that a bubbling action occurs.b. To cause (bread dough, etc.) to rise by adding baker's yeast. v.i.23. (of yeast) to bubble or foam when mixed with warm water, milk, etc. [11751225; Middle English prove, proof, alter, by association with the vowel of prove] of prove, prove < Late Latin proba a test, n. derivative of Latin probare to approve of, examine, prove -proof a combining form of proof, with the meaning of resistant, impervious to that specified by the initial element: childproof; waterproof. Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. (proof) A demonstration of the truth of a mathematical or logical statement, based on axioms and theorems derived from these axioms. The American Heritage Student Science Dictionary, Second Edition. Copyright 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (evidence, proof - Evidence from Latin e-, "out," and videre, "to see" is information that helps form a conclusion; proof is factual information that verifies a conclusion, proof in the pudding - A shortening of the saying "the proof of the pudding is in the eating," i.e. a thing is tested by putting it to its intended use. proof - The strength of alcohol. adduce - To cite as an instance or as proof or evidence. Farlex Trivia Dictionary. 2012 Farlex, Inc. All rights reserved. Past participle: proofed. Gerund: proofing. Imperative: Present, Present Continuous, Past Perfect, Future, Future Continuous, Present Perfect, Continuous, Past Perfect, Future Perfect, Continuous, Past Perfect, Conditional, Past Conditional. Collins English Verb Tables HarperCollins Publishers 2011A trial image taken of a print. Dictionary of Unfamiliar Words by Diagram Group Copyright 2008 by Diagram Visual Information Limited Noun 1. proof - Any factual evidence that helps to establish the truth of something; "if you have any proof for what you say, now is the time to produce it" evidence, grounds - Your basis for belief or disbelief; knowledge on which to base belief; "the evidence that smoking causes lung cancer is very compelling" confirmation, substantiation, verification, check - Additional proof that something that was believed (some fact or hypothesis or theory) is correct; "fossils provided further confirmation of the evolutionary theory" 2. proof - A formal series of statements showing that if one thing is true something else necessarily follows from it. Math., Mathematics, Maths - A science (or group of related sciences) dealing with the logic of quantity and shape and arrangement. logic - The branch of philosophy that analyzes inference, mathematical proof - Proof of a mathematical theorem, logical proof - Proof of a logical theorem, demonstration - Proof by a process of argument or a series of propositions proving an asserted conclusion, argument, statement - A fact or assertion offered as evidence that something is true; "it was a strong argument that his hypothesis was true" 3. proof - A measure of alcoholic strength expressed as an integer twice the percentage of alcohol present by volume. 4. proof - (Printing) an impression made to check for errors, test copy, trial impression, printing, impression - All the copies of a work printed at one time; "they ran off an initial printing of 2000 copies" galley proof - A proof taken before the type is broken up to print pages, foundry proof - A proof taken from a form before duplicate plates are made. 5. proof - A trial photographic print from a negative. 6. proof - The act of validating; finding or testing the truth of something, validation, substantiation, determination, finding - The act of determining the properties of something, usually by research or calculation; "the determination of molecular structures" documentation, support - Documentary validation; "his documentation of the results was excellent"; "the strongest support for this view is the work of Jones" probate - The act of proving that an instrument purporting to be a will was signed and executed in accord with legal requirements. Verb 1. proof - Make or take a proof of, such as a photographic negative, an etching, or typeset produce, create, make - Create or manufacture a man-made product; "We produce more cars than we can sell"; "The company has been making toys for two centuries" 2. proof - Knead to reach proper lightness; "proof dough" knead, work - Make uniform; "knead dough"; "work the clay until it is soft" 3. proof - Read for errors; "I should proofread my manuscripts" 4. proof - Activate by mixing with water and sometimes sugar or milk; "proof yeast" alter, change, modify - Cause to change; make different; cause a transformation; "The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"; "The discussion has changed my thinking about the issue" 5. proof - Make resistant (to harm); proof the materials against shrinking in the dry" bombproof - Make safe against bombs, bulletproof - Make bulletproof; "bulletproof the car" fireproof - Make resistant to fire; weatherproof - Make resistant to bad weather; strengthen - Gain strength; "His body strengthened" 6. proof - (Adj. 1) Proof - (Used in combination or as a suffix) able to withstand; temptation-proof; "childproof locks" impervious, impervious - Not admitting of passage or capable of being affected; "a material impervious to water"; "someone impervious to argument" Based on WordNet 3.0. Farlex clipart collection. 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc. noun Collins Thesaurus of the English Language Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002 noun 1. That which confirms; attestation, authentication, confirmation, corroboration, demonstration, evidence, substantiation, testament, testimonial, testimony, validation, verification, warrant. 2. A fact or circumstance that gives logical support to an assertion, claim, or proposal; argument, ground (often used in plural), reason, wherefore, why. Idiom: why and wherefore, adjective The American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Kazkorekturantiskobtah Beweis Korrekturfahne Probeabzug Beweismittel Beleg pruebabcomprobante constanciabizontysk korrektranyers kpprova prova dibozzadimostrazionegradazionebandomoji nuotraukakorektranepralaiduskorektraparaugnovilkumspierdjuemsbeviskorrekturprvebildepertykkantbask provasdelidenebaskasilk abedinen Collins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 Collins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005 Collins German Dictionary Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (pruf) noun 1. (A piece of) evidence, information, etc. that shows definitely that something is true. We still have no proof that he is innocent. bewys prova dkaz der Beweis bevis prueba (asit) tend to prove byzonytik butki sunnu prava rodyms pierdums butki bewijs bevisdowd prova dovad dkaz dokaz bevis kant, deli chng c 2. A first copy of a printed sheet, that can be corrected before the final printing. She was correcting the proofs of her novel. proef prova obtah die Korrekturfahne korrektur prueba korrektuurpoogen vedos preuve, korrektura proof, cetakan percobaan prfrk bozza korektra korektra pruf drukproefkorrektur pierwsza korekta prova correctur obah krtan otdis tekst za korrektur korrektur bask provas bn in th 3. In photography, the first print from a negative. proef prova ntisk der Probeabzug prertykk prueba esimene koopian vedos preuve, nyers kp cetakan pertama prufymnd/lappi pruvino bandomoji nuotraukua paraugnovilkums gambar cucian pertama proefprvebilde odbitka prbna prova copie; print ntla poskusna kopija prvi otisak rkipka ilik tabdedile() be nh ra th - proof able to withstand or avoid something. waterproof covering. bestand prova de -vzdorn, odoln ... fest - tt; -sikker -, a prueba de - kindel ... -kestv l'preuve de - -mentes tahan -olinn, traustur, fastur a prova di - atspars, nepralaids densnecaurlaids prsegs kalis -dicht, -bestendig, -vrij -tett, sikker, fast -odporny prova de resistant la, -vzdorn, odoln odporen (proti ...), nepremoljiv -otporan [vatten]t, [kld]tlig, [skott]ske, [vrme]bestndig ... e dayankl, geirmez O - chng, ngn Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd., dkaz, korektura bevis, prvtrykk bewismittel, Korrekturfahne, prueba todista preuve, preuve dkaz, otisak za korektur bozza, prova, , bewijs, proefadruk bevis, prvtrykk badanie, dowd komprovanje, prova, bevis, korrektur, deneme basks, kant bn in th, bng chng, Multilingual Translator HarperCollins Publishers 2009 English-Spanish Medical Dictionary Farlex 2012 Want to know TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: They asked if I had any proof of my husband's death. Who'll put him to proof? "I said All Earth, Whatever he's worth, I'll put to the proof. The use of tokens for the express purpose of proof - and, indeed, any formal proof with or without tokens - is a less artistic mode of recognition. It might convince an examining magistrate or the head of a detective department, but it's not proof. You writers forget that what the senses furnish is not proof. "I must have," said the duke, "a proof of his connection with Buckingham. "What say you to that crime, of which I have the proof? "I possess absolute proof of the assertion that I have just made - proof that would satisfy you, if you were judge in a Court of Justice. Your having sent for me is another proof of your affection. "I am about to leave you forever; give me, therefore, one last proof of your affection and fidelity, for, according to our holy religion, a married man seeking admittance at the gate of Heaven is required to swear that he has never defiled himself with an unworthy woman. This incident, this last proof, produced a great effect. And this we may truly affirm to be a great proof that a man is just, not willingly or because he thinks that justice is any good to him individually, but of necessity, for wherever any one thinks that he can safely be unjust, there he is unjust. "To-day, about three o'clock, the proofs of this paper arrived from the printers. [uncountable, countable] information, documents, etc. that show that something is true synonym evidence/conclusive/definitive/scientific proof The police suspected him of dealing drugs, but they didn't have any proof to require/need proof of something Can you provide any proof of identity? Keep the receipt as proof of purchase. These results are a further proof of his outstanding ability, proof of that. There is no proof that the knife belonged to her. Today's unemployment figures are proof positive the government's economic plan isn't working. In criminal cases the burden of proof (= requirement to provide proof) is on the prosecution, plans to lower the standard of proof required to convict people of crimes under the Terrorism Act Extra Examples We need conclusive proof before we can take this matter to court. He is unlikely to make wild accusations without proof. The men were acquitted for lack of proof. I am living proof that the treatment works. The photo was final proof of her husband's infidelity. Her account gives us no concrete proof of his guilt. Have you got any positive proof that she took the money? I have no real proof that he was in the country at the time. We have proof positive that he is in hiding. Topics Scientific research b2 Oxford Collocations Dictionary adjective+verb + preposition+phrases the burden of proof See full entry [uncountable] the process of testing whether something is true or a fact. Is the claim capable of proof? See also burden of proof Topics Opinion and argument b2, Scientific research b2 Oxford Collocations Dictionary adjective+verb + preposition+phrases the burden of proof of proof See full entry [uncountable] the process of testing whether something is true or a fact. Is the claim capable of proof? See also burden of proof Topics Opinion and argument b2, Scientific research b2 [countable] (mathematics) A way of proving that a statement is true or that what you have calculated is correct Topics Maths and measurements 1 [countable, usually plural] A copy of printed material which is produced so that mistakes can be corrected She was checking the proofs of her latest novel. see also page proof [uncountable] A standard used to measure the strength of alcoholic drinks Word Origin Middle English preve, from Old French prueve, from late Latin proba, from Latin probare, to test, prove. The change of vowel in late Middle English was due to the influence of prove. Current senses of the verb date from the late 19th cent. Idioms: be living proof of something/that to show by your actions or qualities that a particular fact is true. These figures are living proof of the government's incompetence. He is living proof that age is no barrier to new challenges. the proof of the pudding (in the eating) | the proof of the pudding (saying) you can only judge if something is good or bad when you have tried it. See proof in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary. See proof in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English. Nearby words: pronta adverb pronunciation noun proof noun proof adjective proof verb imagery noun From the Word list Oxford 5000 C1 Oxford Learner's Dictionary Word of the Day English borrows words from many sources. In many cases, multiple English words share the same origin, even if they are different parts of speech. This is the case for the words proof and prove. Even though they are usually different parts of speech in English, they both originate from the Latin word probare. Despite these similar origins, prove and proof should not be used the same way in modern English. They are different parts of speech. I will discuss these differences below. What is the Difference Between Proof and Prove? In this article, I will compare proof vs. prove. I will use each of these words in at least one example sentence. Then, I will show you a helpful mnemonic you can use to help you choose proof or prove in your own writing. When to Use Proof What does proof mean? The word proof can become several parts of speech. Usually, proof is a noun with three main senses. Sometimes, it is a synonym for evidence, like in these sentences. You must submit proof of residence to apply for a driver's license. I need proof before I can let you proceed. Other times, it means a test copy of something, especially a coin or a photograph. See this sentence for an example. Please submit the proofs to the managing editor so the issue can go to press. Finally, in mathematics and formal logic, proof can also mean a deductive argument. Here is an example. The mathematical proof of Bertrand's postulate is something that I do not understand. Rarely, proof can be a verb, as well. In such cases, it is usually a shortened form of proofread, which means to check a document for accuracy. Proof can also be an adjective, where it refers either to materials impermeability to a specific substance, like in the compound waterproof, or the alcoholic content of a beverage, like the phrase high-proof liquor. When to Use Prove What does prove mean? Prove is much simpler. It is a verb, where it usually means to verify something as true or to demonstrate ones competence. I have included some examples below. Gregor will have to prove himself before he can join Father in the great hunt. These fingerprints prove that the burglary was committed by the suspect's child. In science, we do not prove things; we disprove them. Trick to Remember the Difference If this is a bit too much to remember right now, here is a helpful trick to remember prove vs. proof. In the majority of cases, prove is a verb, while proof is a noun. There are rare exceptions to this rule, but they should be avoided in formal writing. Use proofread instead of proof when you mean to check something for accuracy. Thus, in professional and academic contexts, you can use the shared V between prove and verb to remind yourself that prove is always a verb. Summarily Is proof or prove? Despite the common origin of these two words, they have different meanings and uses in modern English. Proof has several uses; it can be a noun, an adjective, and rarely, a shortened form of the verb proofread. Prove is a verb that either means to demonstrate ones competence or to verify something. In formal writing, you should avoid using proof as a verb. Proofread would be a better choice for these circumstances, clearing the way for you to use prove as a verb. Since these words are both spelled with V, this should be an easy rule to remember. To summarize, Use proof as a noun or adjective. Use prove as a verb. If choosing prove or proof gives you any trouble in the future, you can always revisit this article. WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English 2025 proof/pruf/USA pronunciation n. [uncountable] evidence or facts that are sufficient to establish a thing as true or believable. Mathematics, Philosophy [countable] a sequence of steps, statements, or demonstrations that leads to a valid conclusion. Wine [uncountable] the strength of an alcoholic liquor, esp. with reference to the standard whereby 100 proof signifies an alcoholic content of 50 percent. Photography [countable] a print made from a negative of a photograph for checking quality. Printing [countable] a preliminary copy, as of a manuscript, that is printed for correction or changes. adj. [be + able to withstand or resist something harmful or undesirable] a shelter that was proof against the cold. v. [-+object] to proofread: Proof the document. See -prov-. -proof, suffix. -proof is used to form adjectives with the meaning "resistant; not allowing through" the word mentioned: child+proof childproof = resistant to a child opening it; water+proof waterproof (= not allowing water through). WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English 2025 proof (proof), USA pronunciation. evidence sufficient to establish a thing as true, or to produce belief in its truth. anything serving as such evidence: What proof do you have? the act of testing or making trial of anything; test; trial: to put a thing to the proof, the establishment of the truth of anything; demonstration. Law (in judicial proceedings) evidence having probative weight, the effect of evidence in convincing the mind. Mathematics arithmetical operation serving to check the correctness of a calculation. Mathematics, Philosophy sequence of steps, statements, or demonstrations that leads to a valid conclusion. a test to determine the quality, durability, etc., of materials used in manufacture. Wine [Distilling] the arbitrary standard strength, as of an alcoholic liquor, strength with reference to this standard: "100 proof" signifies a proof spirit, usually 50% alcohol. Photography trial print from a negative. [Print.] Printing a trial impression, as of composed type, taken to correct errors and make alterations. Printing one of a number of early and superior impressions taken before the printing of the ordinary issue: to pull a proof. Printing (in printmaking) an impression taken from a plate or the like to show the quality or condition of work during the process of execution; a print pulled for examination while working on a plate, block, stone, etc. Currency [Numis.] one of a limited number of coins of a new issue struck from polished dies on a blank having a polished or matte surface. the state of having been tested and approved. proved strength, as of armor. Scottish Term the trial of a case by a judge alone, without a jury. adj. able to withstand; successful in not being overcome: proof against temptation. impenetrable, impervious, or invulnerable: proof against outside temperature changes. used for testing or proving; serving as proof. of standard strength, as an alcoholic liquor. of tested or proven strength or quality: proof armor. noting pieces of pure gold and silver that the U.S. assay and mint offices use as standards. v.t. to test; examine for flaws, errors, etc.; check against a standard or standards. Printing prove (def. 7). to proofread; to treat or coat for the purpose of rendering resistant to deterioration, damage, etc. (often used in combination): to proof a house against termites; to shrink-proof a shirt. Food [Cookery] to test the effectiveness of (yeast), as by combining with warm water so that a bubbling action occurs. to cause (esp. bread dough) to rise due to the addition of baker's yeast or other leavening. Late Latin proba a test, akin to Latin probare to test and find good; compare preve French preve, prueve, prueve Middle English prove, proof, proufe, alteration (by association with the vowel of prove) of preve, prueve, prieve, pref 11751225 1. confirmation, demonstration, corroboration, support. See evidence. 3. examination, assay. 18. firm, steadfast. -proof, a combining form meaning "resistant, impervious to" that specified by the initial element: burglarproof; childproof; waterproof. Collins Concise English Dictionary HarperCollins Publishers: proof/pruf/n any evidence that establishes or helps to establish the truth, validity, quality, etc., of something. the whole body of evidence upon which the verdict of a court is based. a sequence of steps or statements that establishes the truth of a proposition. 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Collins Concise English Dictionary HarperCollins Publishers: proof/pruf/n any evidence that establishes or helps to establish the truth, validity, quality, etc., of something. the whole body of evidence upon which the verdict of a court is based. a sequence of steps or statements that establishes the truth of a proposition. See also direct, induction, induction the act of testing the truth of something (esp. in the phrase put to the proof) trial before a judge without a jury a trial impression made from composed type, or a print-out (from a laser printer, etc.) a print made by