

**pray**  
[preɪ] *v*1. **молиться**

the peasants prayed for rain - крестьяне молились о дожде

2. **молить, умолять**

to pray for pardon - молить о прощении

to pray for an injunction - *юр.* просить /ходатайствовать/ о прекращении /приостановлении/ действий судебного постановления

to pray in aid of smb. - *уст.* призывать кого-л. на помощь

pray God he comes in time - дай бог, чтобы он пришёл вовремя

he prayed that he might be forgiven - он молил о прощении

3. **книжн. просить (в обращении часто как вводное слово)**

I pray! - очень прошу вас!, ну пожалуйста!

pray take a seat - садитесь (же), пожалуйста

pray allow me to go - отпустите меня, ради бога

what is the use of that, pray? - какой смысл в этом, скажите на милость?

**pray**

**pray** [praɪ praɪs praɪd praɪɪŋ] *verb, adverb* *BrE* [preɪ] <sup>o</sup> *NAmE* [preɪ] <sup>o</sup>  
*verb*

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

1. **intransitive, transitive** to speak to God, especially to give thanks or ask for help

• They knelt down and prayed.

• ~ **for sb/sth** I'll pray for you.

• to pray for peace

• ~ **to sb (for sb/sth)** She prayed to God for an end to her sufferings.

• ~ **(that)...** We prayed (that) she would recover from her illness.

• ~ **to do sth** He prayed to be forgiven

• + **speech** 'Please God don't let it happen,' she prayed.

2. **intransitive, transitive** to hope very much that sth will happen

• ~ **(for sth)** We're praying for good weather on Saturday.

• ~ **that...** I prayed that nobody would notice my mistake.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	pray
	<i>BrE</i> /preɪ/
	<i>NAmE</i> /preɪ/
he / she / it	prays
	<i>BrE</i> /preɪz/
	<i>NAmE</i> /preɪz/
past simple, past participle	prayed
	<i>BrE</i> /preɪd/
	<i>NAmE</i> /preɪd/
-ing form	praying
	<i>BrE</i> /preɪɪŋ/
	<i>NAmE</i> /preɪɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Middle English (in the sense 'ask earnestly'): from Old French *preier*, from late Latin *precare*, alteration of Latin *precari* 'entreat'.

Thesaurus:

**pray** *verb* I, T

• They knelt down and prayed.

**worship** • • **praise** • |*formal* **venerate** •

pray to/worship/praise **God**

Example Bank:

- Diane prayed over the body for a moment.
- He prayed for good weather.
- He thought if he prayed hard enough God might eventually listen.
- He was secretly praying that his offer would be rejected.
- I prayed to God for guidance.
- I silently prayed for my release.
- Let's pray Mick doesn't find out.
- My parents would always pray for rain.
- She asked the priest to pray with her.
- She prays constantly for forgiveness
- We can hope and pray that no one gets hurt.
- I'll pray for you.
- We prayed (that) he would recover from his illness.
- to pray for peace/rain/forgiveness

**adverb** (old use or ironic) used to mean 'please' when you are asking a question or telling sb to do sth

- What, pray, is the meaning of this?
- Pray continue.

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Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

**pray**

I. **pray**<sup>1</sup> **S3 W3** /preɪ/ *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *verb* [intransitive and transitive]

[Date: 1200-1300; Language: Old French; Origin: *preier*, from Latin *precari*, from prex 'request, prayer']

1. to speak to God in order to ask for help or give thanks ⇒ **prayer**:

▪ They went to the mosque to pray.

**pray for**

▪ Let us pray for peace.

**pray to**

▪ Martha prayed to God for help.

**pray (that)**

▪ He prayed that his sight might be restored.

2. to wish or hope very strongly that something will happen or is true

**pray (that)**

▪ Paul was praying that no one had noticed his absence.

▪ I hope and pray that this is a misunderstanding.

**pray for**

▪ We're praying for good weather tomorrow.

II. **pray**<sup>2</sup> *BrE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *AmE* <sup>ˈ</sup> *adverb* [sentence adverb]

*old-fashioned* used when politely asking a question or telling someone to do something **SYN please**:

▪ Pray be seated.

▪ And who, pray tell, is this?

**pray**

Freakuency Pack

12500 **3065**<sup>MCW</sup>

15000 **1334**<sup>COCA</sup>

RANGE: **2k** PRAY 32400

pray 7379

prays 622

praying 3855

prayers 4821

prayer 12383

prayed 3340

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

2737 **8593**<sup>3802</sup> *vv0*

2359 **9301**<sup>3417</sup> *vvi*

152 **60270**<sup>156</sup> *rr*

4 **443786**<sup>4</sup> *nnu*