

A prerogative is a special right, power, or privilege that belongs to a specific person, group, or official office. It is a choice or entitlement that other people do not have.

Meaning and Usage

- **Personal Choice:** A private decision someone can make for themselves (for example: "Changing your mind is your own prerogative").
- **Official Power:** A special authority tied to a job or position (for example: "Making the final hiring choice is the boss's prerogative").
- **Class or Group Right:** An advantage once held by only a certain group of people (for example: "Higher education was once the prerogative of the rich").

Quick Facts

- **Pronunciation:** Spoken as prih-RAHG-uh-tiv.
- **Similar Words:** Right, privilege, entitlement, and advantage.
- **Word Origin:** Comes from an old Latin word meaning a group chosen to vote first. Over time, it grew to mean any special priority or right.