



“Preamble”

Definition & Example



Simple English
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[Main page](#)
[Simple start](#)
[Simple talk](#)
[New changes](#)
[Show any page](#)
[Help](#)
[Give to Wikipedia](#)

Print/export

[Make a book](#)
[Download as PDF](#)
[Page for printing](#)

Tools

[What links here](#)
[Related changes](#)
[Upload file](#)
[Special pages](#)
[Permanent link](#)
[Page information](#)
[Wikidata item](#)
[Cite this page](#)

In other languages

[Deutsch](#)
[English](#)
[Español](#)
[Français](#)
[Bahasa Melayu](#)
[Nederlands](#)
[Русский](#)
[Svenska](#)
[Tagalog](#)

Not logged in [Talk](#) [Contributions](#)

Page [Talk](#)

Read

[Change](#)

[Change source](#)

[View history](#)

Preamble

A **preamble** is an introduction to a document that describes the documents purpose. The word comes from "pre" meaning "before" and "amble" meaning walk. A preamble can contain facts about the document. The preamble of a law is not part of the law but explains its purpose. The preamble of a book is called a *preface*. The preamble of a musical composition is a prelude or overture.

Example

One of the world's most famous preambles is the one in the **Constitution of the United States** in 1787:

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”