

## **Exact**

Exact >adjective 1 not approximated in any way; precise. 2 accurate or correct in all details: an exact replica. 3 tending to be accurate about minor details. >verb 1 demand and obtain (something) from someone. 2 inflict (revenge) on someone.

-DERIVATIVES exactitude >noun exactness >noun.

-ORIGIN from Latin exigere 'complete, ascertain, enforce'.

## **Precise**

Precise >adjective 1 marked by exactness of expression or detail. 2 very attentive to detail. 3 exact; particular: at that precise moment.

-DERIVATIVES precisely >adverb preciseness >noun.

-USAGE Strictly speaking, precise does not mean the same as accurate. Accurate means 'correct in all details', while precise contains a notion of trying to specify details exactly: if you say 'It's 4.04 and 12 seconds' you are being precise, but not necessarily accurate (your watch might be slow).

-ORIGIN Old French prescis, from Latin praecidere 'cut short'.