

A preface or proem is an introduction to a book or other literary work written by the work's author. An introductory essay written by a different person is a foreword and precedes an author's preface. The preface often closes with acknowledgments of those who assisted in the literary work. A preface generally covers the story of how the book came into being, or how the idea for the book was developed; this is often followed by thanks and acknowledgments to people who were helpful to the author during the time of writing. A preface is usually signed (and the date and place of writing often follow the typeset signature); a foreword by another person is always signed. Information essential to the main text is generally placed in a set of explanatory notes, or perhaps in an "Introduction" that may be paginated with Arabic numerals, rather than in the preface. The term preface can also mean any preliminary or introductory statement. It is sometimes abbreviated pref. Preface comes from the Latin, meaning either spoken before (prae and fatia) or made before (prae + factum). While the former source of the word could have preface meaning the same as prologue, the latter strongly implies an introduction written before the body of the book. With this meaning of stated intention, British publishing up to at least the middle of the twentieth century distinguished between preface and introduction.

A PREFACE OR PROEM IS AN INTRODUCTION TO A BOOK OR OTHER LITERARY WORK WRITTEN BY THE WORK'S AUTHOR. AN INTRODUCTORY ESSAY WRITTEN BY A DIFFERENT PERSON IS A FOREWORD AND PRECEDES AN AUTHOR'S PREFACE. THE PREFACE OFTEN CLOSES WITH ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF THOSE WHO ASSISTED IN THE LITERARY WORK. A PREFACE GENERALLY COVERS THE STORY OF HOW THE BOOK CAME INTO BEING, OR HOW THE IDEA FOR THE BOOK WAS DEVELOPED; THIS IS OFTEN FOLLOWED BY THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO PEOPLE WHO WERE HELPFUL TO THE AUTHOR DURING THE TIME OF WRITING. A PREFACE IS USUALLY SIGNED (AND THE DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING OFTEN FOLLOW THE TYPESET SIGNATURE); A FOREWORD BY ANOTHER PERSON IS ALWAYS SIGNED. INFORMATION ESSENTIAL TO THE MAIN TEXT IS GENERALLY PLACED IN A SET OF EXPLANATORY NOTES, OR PERHAPS IN AN "INTRODUCTION" THAT MAY BE PAGINATED WITH ARABIC NUMERALS, RATHER THAN IN THE PREFACE. THE TERM PREFACE CAN ALSO MEAN ANY PRELIMINARY OR INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT. IT IS SOMETIMES ABBREVIATED PREF. PREFACE COMES FROM THE LATIN, MEANING EITHER SPOKEN BEFORE (PRAE AND FATIA) OR MADE BEFORE (PRAE + FACTUM). WHILE THE FORMER SOURCE OF THE WORD COULD HAVE PREFACE MEANING THE SAME AS PROLOGUE, THE LATTER STRONGLY IMPLIES AN INTRODUCTION WRITTEN BEFORE THE BODY OF THE BOOK. WITH THIS MEANING OF STATED INTENTION, BRITISH PUBLISHING UP TO AT LEAST THE MIDDLE OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN PREFACE AND INTRODUCTION.

Michael Jeffrey Jordan (born February 17, 1963), also known by his initials, MJ,^[3] is an American retired professional basketball player, businessman, and principal owner and chairman of the Charlotte Hornets of the National Basketball Association (NBA). Jordan played 15 seasons in the NBA for the Chicago Bulls and Washington Wizards. His biography on the NBA website states: "By acclamation, Michael Jordan is the greatest basketball player of all time."^[4] Jordan was one of the most effectively marketed athletes of his generation and was considered instrumental in popularizing the NBA around the world in the 1980s and 1990s.^[5]

Jordan played three seasons for coach Dean Smith at the University of North Carolina. As a freshman, he was a member of the Tar Heels' national championship team in 1982. Jordan joined the Bulls in 1984 as the third overall draft pick. He quickly emerged as a league star, entertaining crowds with his prolific scoring. His leaping ability, demonstrated by performing slam dunks from the free throw line in slam dunk contests, earned him the nicknames Air Jordan and His Airness. He also gained a reputation for being one of the best defensive players in basketball.^[6] In 1991, he won his first NBA championship with the Bulls, and followed that achievement with titles in 1992 and 1993, securing a "three-peat". Although Jordan abruptly retired from basketball before the beginning of the 1993-94 NBA season and started a new career playing minor league baseball, he returned to the Bulls in March 1995 and led them to three additional championships in 1996, 1997, and 1998, as well as a then-record 72 regular-season wins in the 1995-96 NBA season. Jordan retired for a second time in January 1999, but returned for two more NBA seasons from 2001 to 2003 as a member of the Wizards.

Jordan's individual accolades and accomplishments include five Most Valuable Player (MVP) Awards, ten All-NBA First Team designations, nine All-Defensive First Team honors, fourteen NBA All-Star Game appearances, three All-Star Game MVP Awards, ten scoring titles, three steals titles, six NBA Finals MVP Awards, and the 1988 NBA Defensive Player of the Year Award. Among his numerous accomplishments, Jordan holds the NBA records for highest career regular season scoring average (30.12 points per game) and highest career playoff scoring average (33.45 points per game). In 1999, he was named the greatest North American athlete of the 20th century by ESPN, and was second to Babe Ruth on the Associated Press's list of athletes of the century. Jordan is a two-time inductee into the Basketball Hall of Fame, having been enshrined in 2009 for his individual career, and again in 2010 as part of the group induction of the 1992 United States men's Olympic basketball team ("The Dream Team"). He became a member of the FIBA Hall of Fame in 2015.

Jordan is also known for his product endorsements. He fueled the success of Nike's Air Jordan sneakers, which were introduced in 1985 and remain popular today.^[7] Jordan also starred in the 1996 film Space Jam as himself. In 2006, he became part-owner and head of basketball operations for the then-Charlotte Bobcats, buying a controlling interest in 2010. In 2015, Jordan became the first billionaire NBA player in history as a result of the increase in value of NBA franchises. He is the third-richest African-American, behind Oprah Winfrey and Robert F. Smith.