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Language



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arm ¹  (ärm)

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n.

1. An upper limb of the human body, connecting the hand and wrist to the shoulder.
2. A part similar to a human arm, such as the forelimb of an animal or a long part projecting from a central support in a machine.
3. Something, such as a sleeve on a garment or a support on a chair, that is designed to cover or support the human arm.
4. A relatively narrow extension jutting out from a large mass: *an arm of the sea*. See Synonyms at [branch](#).
5. An administrative or functional branch, as of an organization.
6. Power or authority: *the long arm of the law*.
7. *Sports* The skill of throwing or pitching a ball well.

Idioms:

an arm and a leg *Slang*

An excessively high price: *a cruise that cost an arm and a leg*.

arm in arm

With arms linked together: *They walked across the beach arm in arm*.

at arm's length

At such a distance that physical or social contact is discouraged: *kept the newcomer at arm's length at first*.

with open arms

With great cordiality and hospitality.

[Middle English, from Old English *earm*; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

armed (ärmd) *adj.*



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arm¹

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arm ²  (ärm)

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n.

1. A weapon, especially a firearm: *troops bearing arms; ICBMs, bombs, and other nuclear arms*.
2. A branch of a military force: *infantry, armor, and other combat arms*.
3. **arms**
 - a. Warfare: *a call to arms against the invaders*.
 - b. Military service: *several million volunteers under arms; the profession of arms*.
4. **arms**

a. Heraldry Bearings.

b. Insignia, as of a state, an official, a family, or an organization.

v. armed, arm-ing, arms

v.intr.

1. To supply or equip oneself with weaponry.

2. To prepare oneself for warfare or conflict.

v.tr.

1. To equip with weapons: *armed themselves with loaded pistols; arm a missile with a warhead; arm a nation for war.*

2. To equip with what is needed for effective action: *tax advisers who were armed with the latest forms.*

3. To provide with something that strengthens or protects: *a space reentry vehicle that was armed with a ceramic shield.*

4. To prepare (a weapon or electronic system, such as an alarm) for use or operation, as by releasing a safety device.

Idiom:

up in arms

Extremely upset; indignant.

[From Middle English *armes*, weapons, from Old French, pl. of *arme*, weapon, from Latin *arma*, weapons; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#). Verb, Middle English *armen*, from Old French *armer*, from Latin *armāre*, from *arma*.]

armed (ärmd) *adj.*

arm er n.

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Arm.

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abbr.

1. Armenia

2. Armenian

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ARM

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abbr.

adjustable-rate mortgage

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

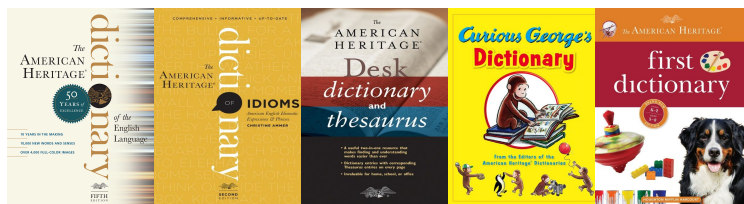
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[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available

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