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dictionary

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English
Language



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or·dain  (ôr-dān)

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tr.v. **or·dained**, **or·dain·ing**, **or·dains**

1.

a. To invest with ministerial or priestly authority; confer holy orders on: *ordain a priest.*

b. To authorize as a rabbi.

2. To order or decree by virtue of superior authority: *The management ordained that business attire should be worn in the office at all times.*

3. To prearrange unalterably; predestine: *events that were ordained by fate.*

[Middle English *ordeinen*, from Old French *ordener*, *ordein-*, from Latin *ordināre*, to organize, appoint to office, from *ordō*, *ordin-*, order; see *ar-* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

or·dain *er n.*

or·dain *ment n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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 in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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