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or·di·nance  (ôr dn-əns)

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n.

1. An authoritative command or order.
2. A custom or practice established by long usage.
3. A Christian rite, especially the Eucharist.
4. A statute or regulation, especially one enacted by a municipal government.

[Middle English *ordinaunce*, from Old French *ordenance*, from Medieval Latin *ordinantia*, from Latin *ordināns*, *ordinant*-, present participle of *ordināre*, to ordain, from *ordō*, *ordin*-, order; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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:

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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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