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rate¹ 🗣️ (rāt)

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n.

1. A quantity measured with respect to another measured quantity: *a rate of speed of 60 miles an hour.*
2. A measure of a part with respect to a whole; a proportion: *the mortality rate; a tax rate.*
3. The cost per unit of a commodity or service: *postal rates.*
4. A charge or payment calculated in relation to a particular sum or quantity: *interest rates.*
5. Level of quality.
6. often **rates** *Chiefly British* A locally assessed property tax.

v. **rat·ed, rat·ing, rates**

v.tr.

1.

a. To place in a particular class, rank, or grade: *rated the film PG13; rated the bonds at junk level.* See Synonyms at [estimate](#).

b. To specify the performance limits of, especially according to a standard scale: *This fuse is rated at 50 amperes. The fishing line is rated for 30 pounds.*

2. To regard or consider as having a certain value: *rated the movie excellent; rated him a fine cook.*

3. Chiefly British To value for purposes of taxation.

4. To set a rate for (goods to be shipped).

5. Informal To merit or deserve: *people that rate special treatment; an idea that rates attention.* See Synonyms at [earn](#).

v.intr.

1. To be ranked in a particular class: *a wine that rates higher than any other.*

2. Informal To have status, importance, or influence: *Tea-flavored ice cream doesn't rate highly in my book.*

Idiom:

at any rate

1. Whatever the case may be; in any case: *You should at any rate apologize.*

2. Used to indicate a revision or correction to a previous remark: *We were delighted, or at any rate satisfied, with the results.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *rata*, proportion, short for Latin (*prō*) *ratā* (*parte*), (according to a) fixed (part), from feminine ablative past participle of *rērī*, to consider, reckon; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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rate² 🗣️ (rāt)

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v. **rat·ed, rat·ing, rates**

Archaic

v.tr.

To berate.

v.intr.

To express reproof.

[Middle English *raten*, perhaps of Scandinavian origin.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

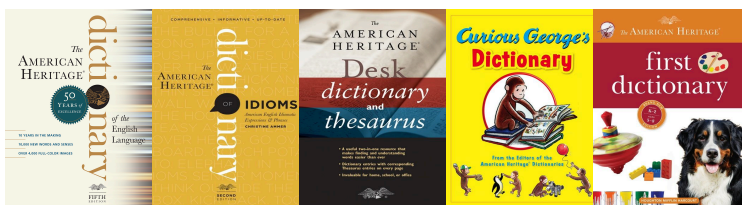
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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