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ash¹ 🔊 (ăsh)

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n.

1. The grayish-white to black powdery residue left when something is burned.
2. *Geology* Pulverized particulate matter ejected by volcanic eruption.
3. The mineral residue of incinerated organic matter, used as an additive in pet foods.
4. **ashes** Ruins: *the ashes of a lost culture*.
5. **ashes** Bodily remains, especially after cremation or decay.

v. **ashed**, **ash·ing**, **ash·es**

v.tr.

To reduce or convert to ash: *ash a tissue sample for analysis*.

v.intr.

Informal To drop ashes from a cigar or cigarette: *accidentally ashed on his own sleeve*.

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

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ash² 🔊 (ăsh)

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n.

1. Any of various chiefly deciduous trees of the genus *Fraxinus*, having opposite, pinnately compound leaves, clusters of small flowers, and one-seeded winged fruits.
2. The strong, elastic wood of any of these trees, used for furniture, tool handles, and sporting goods such as baseball bats.
3. *Linguistics* The letter *æ* in Old English and some modern phonetic alphabets, representing the vowel sound of Modern English *ash*.

[Middle English *asshe*, from Old English *æsc*.]



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ash²

white ash

Fraxinus americana

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

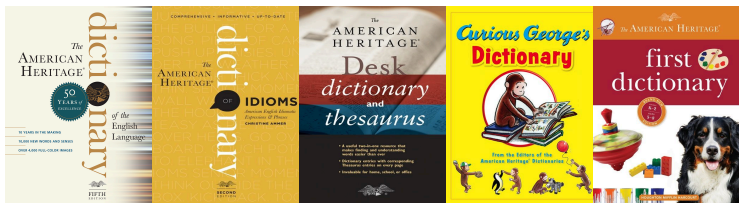
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

Indo-European Roots

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

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