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au·di·ence  (ô dē-əns)

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n.

1.

a. A group of viewers or listeners, especially those present at a performance (as a play, concert, or lecture) or a public event (as a rally).

b. The readership for printed matter, as for a book.

c. A group of people who follow or admire an artist or performer: *The tenor expanded his audience by recording popular songs as well as opera.*

2. A formal hearing, as with a religious or state dignitary.

3. An opportunity to be heard or to express one's views.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *audientia*, from *audiēns*, *audient*-, present participle of *audire*, to hear; see **au-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

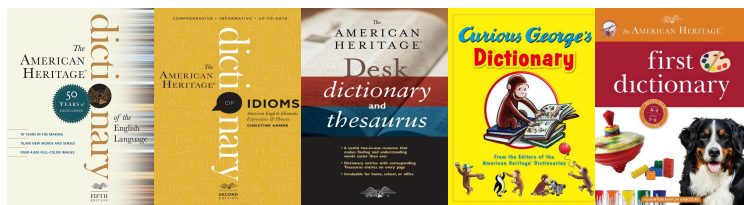
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