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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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eke¹  (ēk)

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tr.v. **eked**, **ek·ing**, **ekes**

1. To supplement with great effort. Used with *out*: *eked out an income by working two jobs.*
2. To get with great effort or strain. Used with *out*: *eke out a bare existence from farming in an arid area.*
3. To make (a supply) last by practicing strict economy. Used with *out*.

[Middle English *eken*, to increase, from Old English *ēcan*; see **aug-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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eke²  (ēk)

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adv.

Archaic

Also.

[Middle English, from Old English *ēac*, *ēc*.]

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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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