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ban¹  (băn)

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tr.v. **banned**, **ban·ning**, **bans**

1.

a. To prohibit (an action) or forbid the use of (something), especially by official decree: *banned smoking in theaters; banned pesticides in parks*. See Synonyms at [forbid](#).

b. To refuse to allow (someone) to do something, go somewhere, or be a participant; exclude: *a coach who was banned from the sidelines for two games; a gambler who was banned from the club*.

2. *South African* Under the former system of apartheid, to deprive (a person suspected of illegal activity) of the right of free movement and association with others.

3. *Archaic* To curse.

n.

1. A prohibition imposed by law or official decree: *a ban on cigarette smoking on airplanes*.

2. An excommunication or condemnation by church officials.

3. Censure, condemnation, or disapproval expressed especially by public opinion.

4. A summons to arms in feudal times.

5. *Archaic* A curse; an imprecation.

[Middle English *bannen*, to summon, banish, curse, from Old English *bannan*, to summon, and from Old Norse *banna*, to prohibit, curse; see **bhā**-² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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ban²  (băn)

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n. pl. **ba·ni** (bă nē)

A unit of currency equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ of the primary unit of currency in Romania and Moldova.

[Romanian, coin, coin of small worth, perhaps of Germanic origin and akin to Old High German *ban*, official proclamation, command (the original medieval Romanian coin being so called because coins were necessary to pay fines and feudal dues) and to Old English *bannan*, to summon; see [BAN](#)¹.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

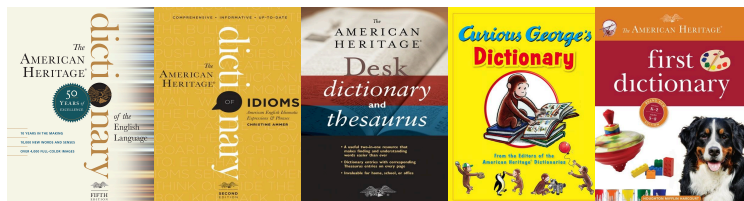
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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