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de·fame  (dĭ-fām)

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tr.v. **de·famed, de·fam·ing, de·fames**

1. To damage the reputation, character, or good name of (someone) by slander or libel. See Synonyms at [malign](#).
2. *Archaic* To disgrace.

[Middle English *defamen*, from Old French *defamer*, from Medieval Latin *dēfāmāre*, alteration of Latin *diffāmāre*, to spread news of, slander : *dis-*, abroad, apart; see [DIS-](#) + *fāma*, rumor, reputation; see *bhā-*² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

de·fam *er n.*

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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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