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blame  (blām)

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tr.v. **blamed**, **blam·ing**, **blames**

1. To consider responsible for a misdeed, failure, or undesirable outcome: *blamed the coach for the loss; blamed alcohol for his bad behavior.*
2. To find fault with; criticize: *I can't blame you for wanting your fair share.*
3. To place responsibility for (something): *blamed the crisis on poor planning.*

n.

1. The state of being responsible for a fault or error; culpability.
2. Censure; condemnation: *"Hoover hazarded more in the way of federal response to economic crisis than any president before him, but his efforts were not enough to divert the blame and wrath of the American people" (Michael B. Stoff).*

Idiom:

to blame

1. Deserving censure or disapproval; at fault: *an investigation to determine who was to blame for the leak.*
2. Being the cause or source of something: *A freak storm was to blame for the power outage.*

[Middle English *blamen*, from Old French *blasmer*, *blamer*, from Vulgar Latin **blastēmāre*, alteration of Late Latin *blasphēmāre*, to reproach; see [BLASPHEME](#).]

blam **a·ble**, **blame** **a·ble** *adj.*

blam **a·bly**, **blame** **a·bly** *adv.*

blam **er** *n.*

Synonyms: **blame**, **fault**, **guilt**

These nouns denote responsibility for an offense or error. *Blame* stresses the assignment of accountability and often connotes censure or criticism: *The police laid the blame for the accident on the driver.*

Fault suggests a failure or deficiency on the part of the responsible party: *It's my own fault that I wasn't prepared for the exam.*

Guilt applies to willful wrongdoing and stresses moral or legal transgression: *The prosecution had evidence of the defendant's guilt.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

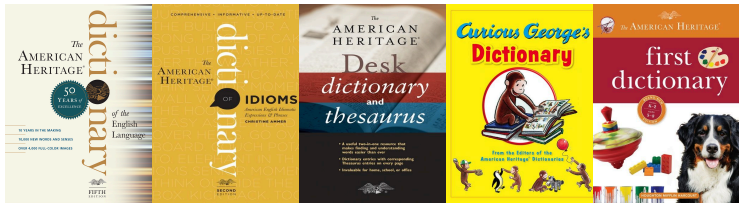
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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