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book¹  (b k)

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n.

1.

a. A set of written, printed, or blank pages fastened along one side and encased between protective covers.

b. An e-book or other electronic resource structured like a book.

2.

a. A printed or written literary work: *Did you ever finish writing that book?*

b. A main division of a larger printed or written work: *a book of the Old Testament.*

3.

a. A volume in which financial or business transactions are recorded.

b. **books** Financial or business records considered as a group: *checked the expenditures on the books.*

4.

a. A libretto.

b. The script of a play.

5. **Book**

a. The Bible.

b. The Koran.

6.

a. A set of prescribed standards or rules on which decisions are based: *runs the company by the book.*

b. Something regarded as a source of knowledge or understanding.

c. The total amount of experience, knowledge, understanding, and skill that can be used in solving a problem or performing a task: *We used every trick in the book to finish the project on schedule.*

d. *Informal* Factual information, especially of a private nature: *What's the book on him?*

7. A pack of like or similar items bound together: *a book of matches.*

8. A record of bets placed on a race.

9. *Games* The number of card tricks needed before any tricks can have scoring value, as the first six tricks taken by the declaring side in bridge.

v. **booked, book·ing, books**

v.tr.

1.

a. To arrange for or purchase (tickets or lodgings, for example) in advance; reserve.

b. To arrange a reservation, as for a hotel room, for (someone): *Book me into the best hotel in town.*

c. To hire or engage: *booked a band for Saturday night.*

2.

a. To list or register in a book: *booked the revenue from last month's sales.*

b. To list or record appointments or engagements in: *A calendar that was booked solid on Tuesday.*

c. To record information about (a suspected offender) after arrest in preparation for arraignment, usually including a criminal history search, fingerprinting, and photographing.

d. *Sports* To record the flagrant fouls of (a player) for possible disciplinary action, as in soccer.

3. To designate a time for; schedule: *Let's book a meeting for next month.*

4. To be hired for or engaged in: *The actor has booked his next movie with that director.*

v.intr.

To make a reservation: *Book early if you want good seats.*

adj.

1. Of or relating to knowledge learned from books rather than actual experience: *has book smarts but not street smarts*.

2. Appearing in a company's financial records: *book profits*.

Idioms:

bring to book

To demand an explanation from; call to account.

in (one's) book

In one's opinion: *In my book they both are wrong*.

like a book

Thoroughly; completely: *I know my child like a book*.

one for the books

A noteworthy act or occurrence.

throw the book at

1. To make all possible charges against (a lawbreaker, for example).

2. To reprimand or punish severely.

[Middle English *bok*, from Old English *bōc*; see **bhāgo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

book *er n.*

Synonyms: book, bespeak, engage, reserve

These verbs mean to cause something to be set aside in advance, as for one's use or possession: *will book a hotel room; made sure their selections were bespoken; engaged a box for the opera season; reserving a table at a restaurant*.

Word History: From an etymological perspective, *book* and *beech* are branches of the same tree. The Germanic root of both words is **bōk-*, ultimately from an Indo-European root meaning "beech tree." The Old English form of *book* is *bōc*, from Germanic **bōk-ō*, "written document, book." The Old English form of *beech* is *bēce*, from Germanic **bōk-jōn*, "beech tree," because the early Germanic peoples used strips of beech wood to write on. A similar semantic development occurred in Latin. The Latin word for book is *liber*, whence *library*. *Liber*, however, originally meant "bark"—that is, the smooth inner bark of a tree, which the early Romans likewise used to write on.

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book²  (b k)

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intr.v. **booked**, **book-ing**, **books**

Informal To move or travel rapidly: *We booked along at a nice clip*.

[Perhaps shortening and alteration (influenced by [BOOK](#)¹) of [BOOGIE](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

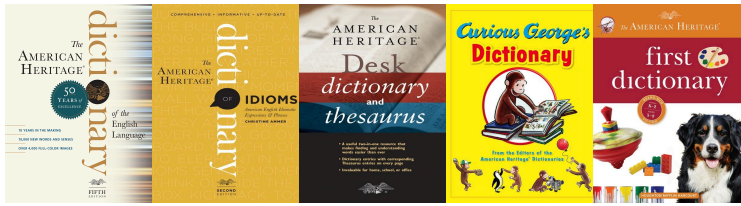
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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