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fis·sion  (fĭsh ən, fĭzh -)

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n.

1. The act or process of splitting into parts.
2. A nuclear reaction in which an atomic nucleus, especially a heavy nucleus, such as an isotope of uranium, splits into fragments, usually two fragments of comparable but unequal mass along with a few neutrons, releasing energy in the order of magnitude of 100 million electron volts. Nuclear fission may occur spontaneously or may be induced by the absorption of a neutron, which can initiate a nuclear chain reaction.
3. *Biology* An asexual reproductive process in which a unicellular organism divides into two or more independently maturing daughter cells.

v. **fis·sioned, fis·sion·ing, fis·sions**

v. tr.

To cause (an atom) to undergo fission.

v. intr.

To undergo fission.

[Latin *fissiō*, *fissiōn-*, a cleaving, from *fissus*, split; see [FISSL-](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

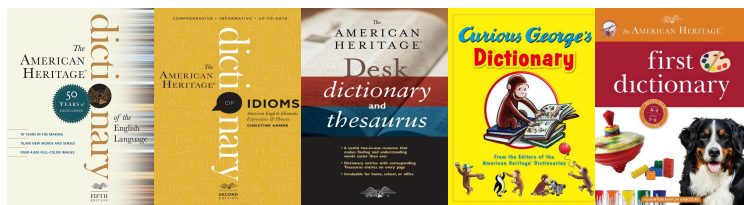
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