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vent¹  (vēnt)

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n.

1. Forceful expression or release of pent-up thoughts or feelings: *give vent to one's anger.*
2. An opening permitting the escape of fumes, a liquid, a gas, or steam.
3. The small hole at the breech of a gun through which the charge is ignited.
4. *Zoology* The excretory opening of the digestive tract in animals such as birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.
5. *Geology*
 - a. The opening of a volcano in the earth's crust.
 - b. An opening on the ocean floor that emits hot water and dissolved minerals.

v. **vent·ed, vent·ing, vents**

v.tr.

1. To express (one's thoughts or feelings, for example), especially forcefully. See Synonyms at [voice](#).
2. To release or discharge (steam, for example) through an opening.
3. To provide with a vent.

v.intr.

1. To vent one's feelings or opinions: *Sorry to go on like that, but I just had to vent.*
2. To be released or discharged through an opening.
3. To rise to the surface of water to breathe. Used of a marine mammal.

[Partly from French *vent* (from Old French) and partly alteration of French *évent* (from Old French *esvent*, from *esventer*, to let out air, from Vulgar Latin **exventāre* : Latin *ex-*; see [EX-](#) + Latin *ventus*, wind; see [wē-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

vent *er n.*

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vent²  (vēnt)

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n.

A slit in a garment, as in the back seam of a jacket.

[Middle English *vente*, alteration (probably influenced by Old French *vent*, wind) of *fente*, from Old French, slit, from *fendre*, to split open, from Latin *findere*; see [FISSION](#).]

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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:

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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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