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band ¹ (bănd)

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n.

1. A thin strip of flexible material used to encircle and bind one object or to hold a number of objects together: *a metal band around the bale of cotton.*
2. A strip or stripe that contrasts with something else in color, texture, or material.
3. A narrow strip of fabric used to trim, finish, or reinforce articles of clothing.
4. Something that constrains or binds morally or legally: *the bands of marriage and family.*
5. A simple ring, especially a wedding ring.
6.
 - a. A neckband or collar.
 - b. **bands** The two strips hanging from the front of a collar as part of the dress of certain clerics, scholars, and lawyers.
 - c. A high collar popular in the 1500s and 1600s.
7.
 - a. *Biology* A chromatically, structurally, or functionally differentiated strip or stripe in or on an organism.
 - b. *Anatomy* A cordlike tissue that connects or holds structures together.
8. *Physics*
 - a. A specific range of wavelengths or frequencies of electromagnetic radiation.
 - b. A range of very closely spaced electron energy levels in solids, the distribution and nature of which determine the electrical properties of a material.
9. Any of the distinct grooves on a long-playing phonograph record that contains an individual selection or a separate section of a whole.
10. A cord or strip across the back of a book to which the sheets or quires are attached.

tr.v. **band·ed, band·ing, bands**

1. To tie, bind, or encircle with or as if with a band.
2. To mark or identify with a band: *a program to band migrating birds.*

[Middle English *bende* (from Old English *bend* and from Old French *bande, bende*, of Germanic origin) and Middle English *bond, band* (from Old Norse, *band*; see **bhendh-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.)]

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band ² (bănd)

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n.

1.
 - a. A group of people: *a band of outlaws.*
 - b. A group of animals.
2.
 - a. *Anthropology* A unit of social organization especially among hunter-gatherers, consisting of a usually small number of families living together cooperatively.
 - b. *Canadian* An aboriginal group officially recognized as an organized unit by the Canadian government. See Usage Note at [First Nation](#).

3. A group of musicians who perform as an ensemble.
v. **band·ed, band·ing, bands**
v. *tr.*
To assemble or unite in a group.
v. *intr.*
To form a group; unite: *banded together for protection.*

[Early Modern English, from Middle French, troop identified by its standard, ultimately (probably via Old Provençal) from **banda*, plural of Medieval Latin *bandum*, military standard, banner, of Germanic origin; see **bhā**-¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

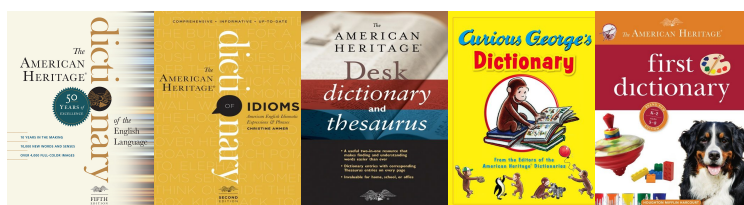
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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