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suf·fer  (sŭf ər)

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v. suf·fered, suf·fer·ing, suf·fers

v.intr.

1. To feel pain or distress; sustain injury or harm: *suffer from arthritis; made the people suffer for their disloyalty.*

2.

a. To have a specified shortcoming or weakness: *writing that suffers from poor organization.*

b. To sustain a loss, setback, or decline in effectiveness; become worse: *When morale drops, the company's performance suffers.*

c. To appear at a disadvantage: *"He suffers by comparison with his greater contemporary" (Albert C. Baugh).*

v.tr.

1.

a. To experience, undergo, or feel (something painful, injurious, or unpleasant): *suffer a heart attack; suffer a debilitating illness; suffer pain.*

b. To undergo or be subjected to (a negative experience or development): *a team that suffered a defeat; a species that suffered a decline in population; a business that suffered huge losses.*

2.

a. To put up with; tolerate: *She does not suffer fools easily.* See Synonyms at [endure](#).

b. To permit; allow: *"They were not suffered to aspire to so exalted a position as that of streetcar conductor" (Edmund S. Morgan).*

[Middle English *suffren*, from Old French *sufrir*, from Vulgar Latin **sufferīre*, from Latin *sufferre* : *sub-*, *sub-* + *ferre*, to carry; see [bher-](#)¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

suf fer·er *n.*

suf fer·ing·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

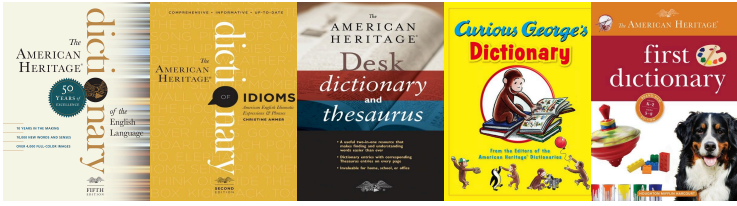
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