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de·fer¹  (dĭ-fûr)

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intr.v. **de·ferred**, **de·fer·ring**, **de·fers**

1. To put off; postpone.
2. To postpone the induction of (one eligible for the military draft).

[Middle English *differen*, to postpone, differ; see [DIFFER](#).]

de·fer ra·ble *adj.*

de·fer rer *n.*

Synonyms: defer¹, postpone, shelve, suspend

These verbs mean to put off until a later time: *deferred paying the bills; postponing our trip; shelved the issue; suspending train service.*

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de·fer²  (dĭ-fûr)

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v. **de·ferred**, **de·fer·ring**, **de·fers**

v.intr.

To submit to the wish or decision of another, as in recognition of authority. See Synonyms at [yield](#).

v.tr.

To commit or entrust to another: *The principal deferred the decision to the school board.*

[Middle English *deferen*, from Old French *deferer*, from Latin *dēferre*, to carry away, refer to : *dē-*, *de-* + *ferre*, to carry; see [bher-¹](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

de·fer rer *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

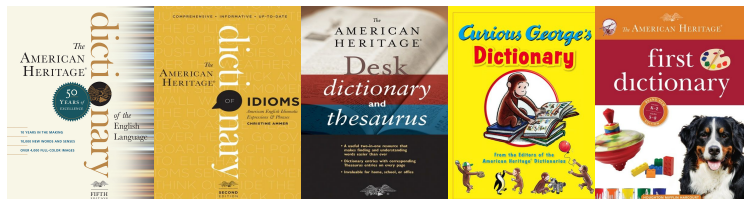
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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