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for·bid  (fər-bīd , fôr-)

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tr.v. **for·bade** (-bād , -bād) or **for·bad** (-bād), **for·bid·den** (-bīd n) or **for·bid**, **for·bid·ding**, **for·bids**

1. To command (someone) not to do something: *I forbid you to go.*
2. To command against the doing or use of (something); prohibit: *forbid smoking on trains.*
3. To have the effect of preventing; preclude: *Discretion forbids a reply.*

[Middle English *forbidden*, *forbeden*, from Old English *forbēodan*; see **bheudh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

for·bid **dance** *n.*

for·bid **der** *n.*

Synonyms: forbid, ban¹, prohibit, proscribe

These verbs mean to refuse to allow: *laws that forbid speeding; banned smoking in restaurants; rules that prohibit loitering; proscribed the importation of certain fruits.*

Antonym: permit¹

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

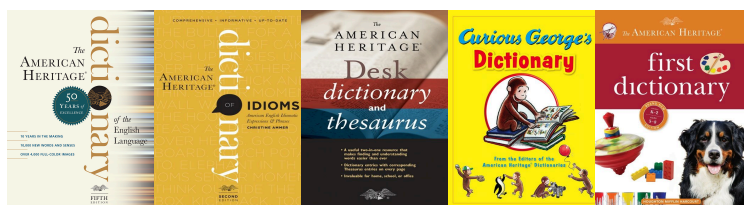
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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