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build  (bɪld)

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v. **built** (bɪlt), **build·ing**, **builds**

v.tr.

1. To form by combining materials or parts; construct.
2. To order, finance, or supervise the construction of: *The administration built several new housing projects.*
3. To develop or give form to according to a plan or process; create: *build a nation; built a successful business out of their corner grocery store.*
4. To increase or strengthen by adding gradually to: *money building interest in a savings account; build support for a political candidate.*
5. To establish a basis for; found or ground: *build an argument on fact.*

v.intr.

1. To make something by combining materials or parts.
2. To engage in the construction or design of buildings: *"Each of the three architects built in a different style" (Dwight Macdonald).*
3. To develop in magnitude or extent: *clouds building on the horizon.*
4. To progress toward a maximum, as of intensity: *suspense building from the opening scene to the climax.*

n.

1. The physical makeup of a person or thing, especially one's physique: *an athletic build.*
2. *Computers* Any of various versions of a software product as it is being developed for release to users.

Phrasal Verbs:

build down

To reduce or diminish, especially in a systematic numerical fashion: *build down the armed forces in peace time.*

build in (or into)

To construct or include as an integral part of: *a wall with shelving that was built in; build stability into the economy.*

build on (or upon)

To use as a basis or foundation: *We must build on our recent success.*

build out

To develop all the land available in (an area, such as a municipality).

build up

1. To develop or increase in stages or by degrees: *built up the business; building up my endurance for the marathon.*
2. To accumulate or collect: *sediment building up on the ocean floor.*
3. To bolster: *build up the product with a massive ad campaign; built up my hopes after the interview.*
4. To fill up (an area) with buildings.

Idiom:

build on sand

To provide with an unstable foundation: *Having bought only high-risk stocks, my portfolio was built on sand.*

[Middle English *bilden*, from Old English *byldan*; see **bheu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

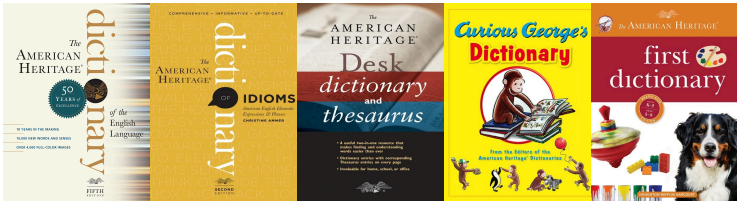
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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