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frac·ture  (frăk chər)

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n.

1.

a. The act or process of breaking.

b. The condition of having been broken or ruptured: *"a sudden and irreparable fracture of the established order"* (W. Bruce Lincoln).

2. A break, rupture, or crack, especially in bone or cartilage.

3. *Mineralogy*

a. The characteristic manner in which a mineral breaks.

b. The characteristic appearance of the surface of a broken mineral.

4. *Geology* A crack or fault in a rock.

v. **frac·tured**, **frac·tur·ing**, **frac·tures**

v.tr.

1.

a. To cause to break: *The impact of the fall fractured the bone.* See Synonyms at [break](#).

b. To undergo a break in (a bone): *He fractured his ankle in the fall.*

2. To disrupt or destroy as if by breaking: *fractured the delicate balance of power.*

3. To abuse or misuse flagrantly, as by violating rules: *ignorant writers who fracture the language.*

4. *Slang* To cause to laugh heartily: *"Jack Benny fractured audiences ... for more than 50 years"* (Newsweek).

v.intr.

To undergo a fracture.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *frāctūra*, from *frāctus*, past participle of *frangere*, to break; see [bhref-in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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fracture

left to right: transverse, oblique, and greenstick fractures

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

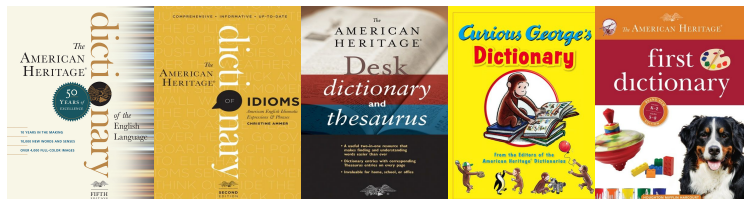
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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