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re·fract  (rĭ-frăkt)

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tr.v. **re·fract·ed, re·fract·ing, re·fracts**

1. To deflect (light, for example) from a straight path by refraction.
2. To alter by viewing through a medium: *"In the Quartet reality is refracted through a variety of eyes" (Elizabeth Kastor).*
3. *Medicine* To determine the refraction of (an eye, for example).

[Latin *refringere, refrāct-*, to break up : *re-*, *re-* + *frangere*, to break; see **bhreg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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