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dictionary

of the  
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**dole**<sup>1</sup>  (dōl)

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*n.*

1. The distribution by the government of relief payments to the unemployed.
2. A share of money, food, or clothing that has been charitably given: *increasing the monthly dole given to poor families.*
3. *Archaic* One's fate.

*tr.v.* **doled**, **dol·ing**, **doles**

To give out, especially in portions or shares; allot or distribute. Often used with *out*: *The mayor doled out jobs to those who had supported him in the election.* See Synonyms at [distribute](#).

**Idiom:**

**on the dole**

Receiving regular relief payments from or as if from the government.

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[Middle English *dol*, part, share, from Old English *dāl*; see **dail**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**dole**<sup>2</sup>  (dōl)

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*n.*

*Archaic*

Sorrow; grief; dolor.

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[Middle English *dol*, from Old French *dol*, *deul*, from Late Latin *dolus*, from Latin *dolēre*, to feel pain, grieve.]

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**Dole**  (dōl), **Robert Joseph** Known as "**Bob**." Born 1923.

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American politician who served as a US representative (1961-1969) and senator (1969-1996) from Kansas. He ran as vice president in Gerald Ford's unsuccessful presidential campaign (1976) and was the Republican presidential nominee in the 1996 election.

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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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