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dic·tion  (dĭk shən)

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n.

1. Choice and use of words in speech or writing.
2. Degree of clarity and distinctness of pronunciation in speech or singing; enunciation.

[Middle English *diccion*, a saying, word, from Old French, from Latin *dictiō*, *dictiōn-*, rhetorical delivery, from *dictus*, past participle of *dīcere*, to say, speak; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

dic tion·al *adj.*

dic tion·al·ly *adv.*

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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](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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