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ben·e·dic·tion  (běn'ī-dīk shən)

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n.

1. A blessing.
2. An invocation of divine blessing, usually at the end of a church service.
3. often **Benediction** *Roman Catholic Church* A short service consisting of prayers, the singing of a Eucharistic hymn, and the blessing of the congregation with the host.
4. An expression of good wishes.

[Middle English *benediccioun*, from Old French *benedicion*, from Latin *benedictiō*, *benedictiōn-*, from *benedictus*, past participle of *benedīcere*, to bless : *bene*, well; see **deu-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *dīcere*, to speak; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ben'e·dic tive, **ben'e·dic to·ry** (-dīk tə-rē) *adj.*

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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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