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Language



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doc·u·ment  (dŏk yə-mənt)

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n.

1.

a. A written or printed paper that bears the original, official, or legal form of something and can be used to furnish decisive evidence or information.

b. Something, such as a recording or a photograph, that can be used to furnish evidence or information.

c. A writing that contains information.

d. Computers A piece of work created with an application, as with a word processor.

e. Computers A computer file that is not an executable file and contains data for use by applications.

2. Something, especially a material substance such as a coin bearing a revealing symbol or mark, that serves as proof or evidence.

tr.v. (-mənt') **doc·u·ment·ed, doc·u·ment·ing, doc·u·ments**

1. To furnish with a document or documents.

2. To methodically record the details of: *"I had thought long and logically about ... how to document the patterns of dolphin behavior" (Diana Reiss).*

3. To support (an assertion or claim, for example) with evidence or decisive information.

4. To support (statements in a book, for example) with written references or citations; annotate.

[Middle English, precept, from Old French, from Latin *documentum*, example, proof, from *docēre*, to teach; see **dek-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

doc·u·ment a·ble (-měn tə-bəl) *adj.*

doc·u·ment al (-měn tl) *adj.*

doc u·ment'er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

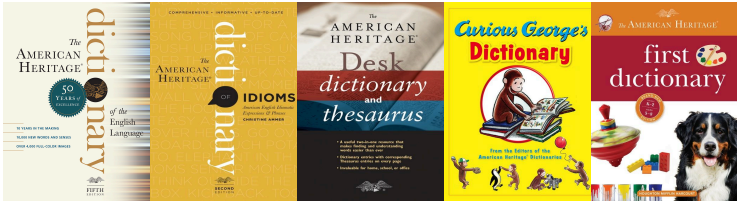
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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