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deign  (dān)

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v. **deigned**, **deign-ing**, **deigns**

v.intr.

To do something that one considers beneath one's dignity; condescend: *wouldn't deign to greet the servant who opened the door*. See Synonyms at [stoop](#)¹.

v.tr.

To condescend to give or grant; vouchsafe: "*Nor would we deign him burial of his men*" (Shakespeare).

[Middle English *deinen*, from Old French *deignier*, to regard as worthy, from Latin *dignārī*, from *dignus*, worthy; see [dek-](#) [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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