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Pen·te·cost  (pĕn tĭ-kôst', -kôst')

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n.

1. *Christianity* The seventh Sunday after Easter, commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. Also called *Whitsunday*.
2. *Judaism* See [Shavuot](#).

[Middle English *pentecoste*, from Old English *pentecosten*, from Late Latin *Pentēcostē*, from Greek *pentēkostē* (used as a translation of Hebrew *šābû'ôt*, Shavuot), from *pentēkostē* (*hēmerā*), fiftieth (day), feminine of *pentēkostos*, fiftieth, from *pentēkonta*, fifty; see **penk^we** in the Appendix of 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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