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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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cent.

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abbr.

1. centigrade
2. *Latin* centum (hundred)
3. century

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cent  (sěnt)

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n. Abbr. ct.

A unit of currency equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ of various currencies, including the US dollar and the euro.

[Middle English, from Old French, hundred, from Latin *centum*; see **dek** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Our Living Language The plural of *cent* is *cent* in some varieties of vernacular Southern English when preceded by a numeral: *That costs eighty cent*. See Note at [foot](#).

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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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