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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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cen·ta·vo  (sĕn-tă vō)

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n. pl. cen·ta·vos

1. A unit of currency that is equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ of the primary unit of currency in many Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries, including Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico.
2. A former unit of currency that was equal to $\frac{1}{100}$ of the Portuguese escudo.

[Spanish, hundredth, from Latin *centum*, hundred; see **dek** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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