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don¹  (dŏn)

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- n.*
- 1. Don** (*also* dŏn) Used as a courtesy title before the name of a man in a Spanish-speaking area.
 - 2. Chiefly British**
 - a.** A head, tutor, or fellow at a college of Oxford or Cambridge.
 - b.** A college or university professor.
 - 3.** The leader of an organized-crime family.
 - 4. Archaic** An important personage.

[Spanish dialectal and Italian, both from Latin *dominus*, lord; see **dem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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don²  (dŏn)

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- tr.v. donned, don·ning, dons*
- 1.** To put on (clothing or an ornament, for example): *donned long gloves for the costume party; don clown make-up for the performance.*
 - 2.** To assume or take on: *donned the air of the injured party.*

[Middle English, contraction of *do on*, to put on; see [do](#)¹.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

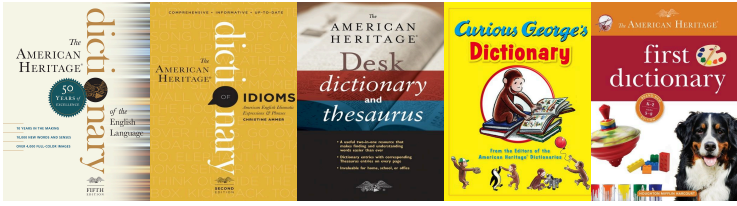
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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