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in·dent¹ (ĩn-děnt)

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v. in·dent·ed, in·dent·ing, in·dents

v.tr.

1. To set (the first line of a paragraph, for example) in from the margin.

2.

a. To cut or tear (a document with two or more copies) along an irregular line so that the parts can later be matched for establishing authenticity.

b. To draw up (a document) in duplicate or triplicate.

3.

a. To notch or serrate the edge of; make jagged.

b. To make notches, grooves, or holes in (wood, for example) for the purpose of mortising.

c. To fit or join together by or as if by mortising.

4. Chiefly British To order (goods) by purchase order or official requisition.

v.intr.

1. To make or form an indentation.

2. Chiefly British To draw up or order an indent.

n. (ĩn-děnt , ĩn děnt')

1. The act of indenting or the condition of being indented.

2. A blank space before the beginning of an indented line: *a two-pica indent*.

3. An indenture.

4. A US certificate issued at the close of the American Revolution for interest due on the public debt.

5. Chiefly British An official requisition or purchase order for goods.

[Middle English *enderten*, to notch, from Anglo-Norman and Old French *endenter*, both from Medieval Latin *indentāre* : Latin *in-*, in; see [IN](#)² + Latin *dēns*, *dent-*, tooth; see **dent-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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in·dent² (ĩn-děnt)

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tr.v. in·dent·ed, in·dent·ing, in·dents

To impress (a design, for example); stamp.

n. (ĩn-děnt , ĩn děnt')

An indentation.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

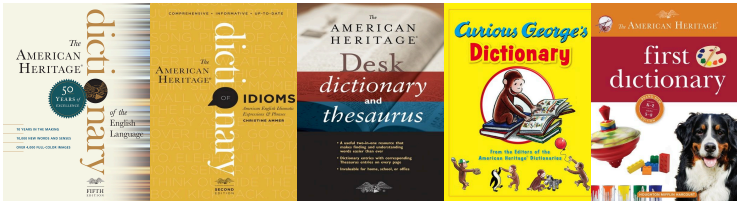
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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