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English
Language



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drake¹  (drāk)

Share:

n.
A male duck.

[Middle English.]

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drake²  (drāk)

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n.
A mayfly used as fishing bait. Also called *drake fly*.

[Middle English, dragon, from Old English *draca*, from West Germanic **drako*, from Latin *dracō*; see [DRAGON](#).]

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Drake  (drāk), Sir **Francis** 1540?-1596.

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English naval hero and explorer who was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world (1577-1580) and was vice admiral of the fleet that destroyed the Spanish Armada (1588).



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Sir Francis Drake

miniature portrait by Isaac Oliver (1560?-1617)

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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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