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Language



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truth  (tr th)

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n. pl. truths (tr thz, tr ths)

1.
 - a. Conformity to fact or actuality: *Does this story have any truth?*
 - b. Reality; actuality: *In truth, he was not qualified for the job.*
 - c. The reality of a situation: *The truth is, she respects your work.*
2.
 - a. A statement proven to be or accepted as true: *truths about nature.*
 - b. Such statements considered as a group: *researchers in pursuit of truth.*
3. Sincerity; integrity: *the truth of his intentions.*
4. Fidelity to an original or standard: *the truth of the copy.*
5.
 - a. *Theology & Philosophy* That which is considered to be the ultimate ground of reality.
 - b. *Logic* The positive (true) truth-value.

[Middle English *trewthe*, loyalty, from Old English *trēowth*; see **deru-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

Synonyms: [truth](#), [veracity](#), [verity](#), [verisimilitude](#)

These nouns refer to the quality of being in accord with fact or reality. *Truth* is a comprehensive term that in all of its nuances implies accuracy and honesty: “*We seek the truth, and will endure the consequences*” (Charles Seymour).

Veracity is adherence to the truth: “*Veracity is the heart of morality*” (Thomas H. Huxley).

Verity often applies to an enduring or repeatedly demonstrated truth: “*beliefs that were accepted as eternal verities*” (James Harvey Robinson).

Verisimilitude is the quality of having the appearance of truth or reality: “*merely corroborative detail, intended to give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative*” (W.S. Gilbert).

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Truth, Sojourner Originally **Isabella Baumfree**. 1797?-1883.

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American abolitionist and feminist. Born into slavery, she escaped in 1827 and became a leading orator against slavery and for the rights of women.



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Sojourner Truth

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

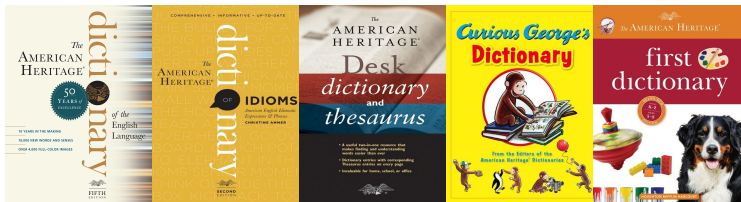
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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