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tire¹  (tīr)

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v. tired, tir·ing, tires

v.intr.

1. To lose energy or strength; grow weary: *When you're sick, you tend to tire easily.*
2. To grow bored or impatient: *The audience tired after the first 30 minutes of the movie.*

v.tr.

1. To diminish the energy or strength; fatigue: *The long walk tired me.*
2. To exhaust the interest or patience of.

[Middle English *tiren*, from Old English *tēorian*, *tyrian*; see **deu**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Synonyms: **tire**¹, **weary**, **fatigue**, **exhaust**

These verbs mean to cause or undergo depletion of energy, strength, or interest. *Tire* often suggests a state resulting from exertion, excess, dullness, or ennui: "*When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life*" (Samuel Johnson).

Weary often implies dissatisfaction, as that resulting from what is irksome or boring: *found the long journey wearying; soon wearied of their constant bickering*. *Fatigue* implies great weariness, as that caused by stress or overwork: "*fatigued by an endless rotation of thought and wild alarms*" (Mary Wollstonecraft).

To exhaust means to wear out completely, and it connotes total draining of physical or emotional strength: "*Like all people who try to exhaust a subject, he exhausted his listeners*" (Oscar Wilde). "*Following a similar 'tempest' he had ... actually apologized to me for his misbehavior ... Scenes such as I had just been a participant in fractured my spirit, exhausted me*" (William Styron).

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tire²  (tīr)

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n.

1. A covering for a wheel, usually made of rubber reinforced with cords of nylon, fiberglass, or other material and filled with compressed air.
2. A hoop of metal or rubber fitted around a wheel.

[Middle English, iron rim of a wheel, probably from *tir*, attire, short for *atire*, from *attiren*, to attire; see [ATTIRE](#).]

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tire³  (tīr) *Archaic*

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tr.v. tired, tir·ing, tires

To adorn or attire.

n.

1. Attire.
2. A headband or headdress.

[Middle English *tiren*, short for *attiren*, to attire; see [ATTIRE](#).]

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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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