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dictionary

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Language



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du·ra·tion  (d -rā shən, dy -)

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n.

1. Continuance or persistence in time.
2. A period of existence or persistence: *sat quietly through the duration of the speech.*
3. The number of years required to receive the present value of future payments, both of interest and principle, of a bond, often used as an indicator of a bond's price volatility resulting from changes in interest rates.

[Middle English *duracioun*, from Old French *duration*, from Medieval Latin *dūrātiō*, *dūrātiōn-*, from Latin *dūrātus*, past participle of *dūrāre*, to last; see **deuə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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