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dictionary

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Language



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tug  (tüg)

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v. tugged, tug·ging, tugs

v.tr.

1. To pull at vigorously or repeatedly: *tugged the bell rope*. See Synonyms at [pull](#).
2. To move by pulling with great effort or exertion; drag: *tugged the mattress onto the porch*.
3. To tow by tugboat.

v.intr.

To pull something vigorously or repeatedly: *tugged at the coat's zipper*.

n.

1. An instance of tugging; a strong or sudden pull: *gave the leash a tug*.
2. A pulling force: *the tug of gravity*.
3. A contest; a struggle: *a tug between loyalty and desire*.
4.
 - a. A tugboat.
 - b. A land, air, or space vehicle that moves or tows other vehicles: *an airplane tug*.
 5. A rope, chain, or strap used in hauling, especially a harness trace.

[Middle English *tuggen*, from Old English *tēon*; see **deuk-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

tug **ger** *n.*

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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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