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tie  (tī)

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v. **tied, ty·ing** (tī ĭng), **ties**

v.tr.

1. To fasten or secure with or as if with a cord, rope, or strap: *tied the kite to a post; tie up a bundle.*
2. To fasten by drawing together the parts or sides and knotting with strings or laces: *tied her shoes.*
3.
 - a. To make by fastening ends or parts: *tie a knot.*
 - b. To put a knot or bow in: *tie a neck scarf.*
4. To confine or restrict as if with cord: *duties that tied him to the office.*
5. To bring together in relationship; connect or unite: *friends who were tied by common interests; people who are tied by blood or marriage.*
6.
 - a. To equal (an opponent or an opponent's score) in a contest.
 - b. To equal an opponent's score in (a contest): *tied the game with minutes remaining.*
7. *Music* To join (notes) by a tie.

v.intr.

1. To be fastened or attached: *The apron ties at the back.*
 2. To achieve equal scores in a contest.
- n.
1. A cord, string, or other means by which something is tied.
 2. Something that connects or unites; a link: *a blood tie; marital ties.*
 3. A necktie.
 4. A beam or rod that joins parts and gives support.
 5. One of the timbers or slabs of concrete laid across a railroad bed to support the rails.
 6.
 - a. An equality of scores, votes, or performance in a contest: *The election ended in a tie.*
 - b. A contest so resulting; a draw.
 7. *Music* A curved line above or below two notes of the same pitch, indicating that the tone is to be sustained for their combined duration.

Phrasal Verbs:

tie in

1. To bring into or have a harmonious or effective relation; connect or coordinate: *His explanation of what happened ties in with ours. We tied the new room in with the existing decor.*
2. To include as part of a promotional tie-in: *tied the movie in with their car brand.*

tie into

To attack energetically.

tie up

1. *Nautical* To secure or be secured to a shore or pier; dock.
2. To impede the progress of; block: *The accident tied up traffic.*
3. To keep occupied; engage: *She was tied up in a meeting all morning. The phone was tied up for an hour.*
4. To place (funds) so as to make inaccessible for other uses: *tied up her cash in long-term investments.*

Idioms:

tie one on *Slang*

To become intoxicated; go on a drinking spree.

tie the knot *Slang*

1. To get married.
2. To perform a marriage ceremony.

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



(click for a larger image)

tie
railroad ties

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

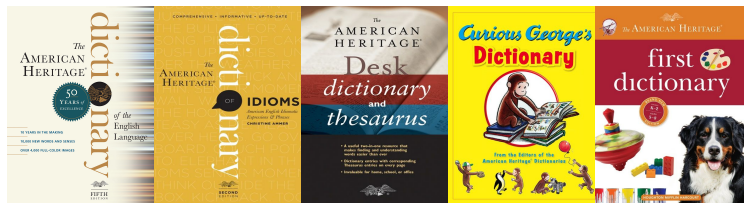
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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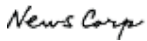
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