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dictionary

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English
Language



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ed·u·cate  (ĕj ə-kāt')

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v. ed·u·cat·ed, ed·u·cat·ing, ed·u·cates

v.tr.

1. To develop the mental, moral, or social capabilities of, especially by schooling or instruction. See Synonyms at [teach](#).
2. To provide with knowledge or training in a particular area or for a particular purpose: *decided to educate herself in foreign languages; entered a seminary to be educated for the priesthood.*
3. To provide with information, as in an effort to gain support for a position or to influence behavior: *hoped to educate the voters about the need for increased spending on public schools.*
4. To develop or refine (one's taste or appreciation, for example).

v.intr.

To teach or instruct a person or group.

[Middle English *educaten*, from Latin *ēducāre*, *ēducātus*; see **deuk-** [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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