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AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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deed  (dēd)

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- n.*
1. Something that is carried out; an act or action.
 2. A usually praiseworthy act; a feat or exploit.
 3. Action or performance in general: *Deeds, not words, matter most.*
 4. *Law*
 - a. A signed, sealed, and delivered instrument.
 - b. An instrument conveying an interest in real property.
- tr.v. deed·ed, deed·ing, deeds*
- To transfer by means of a deed: *deeded the property to the children.*
-
- [Middle English *dede*, from Old English *dǣd*; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

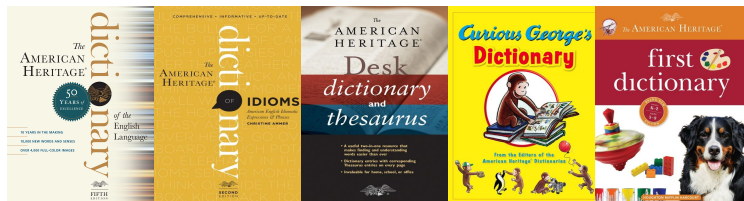
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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