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Language



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sac·ri·fice  (săk rə-fīs')

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n.

1.

a. The act of offering something to a deity in propitiation or homage, especially the ritual slaughter of an animal or a person.

b. A victim offered in this way.

2.

a. The act of giving up something highly valued for the sake of something else considered to have a greater value or claim: *Social activism often involves tremendous sacrifice.*

b. Something given up in this way.

3.

a. Relinquishment of something at less than its presumed value.

b. Something so relinquished.

c. A loss so sustained.

4. *Baseball* A sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly.

v. **sac·ri·ficed**, **sac·ri·fic·ing**, **sac·ri·fic·es**

v.tr.

1. To offer as a sacrifice to a deity.

2. To give up (one thing) for another thing considered to be of greater value.

3. To sell or give away at a loss.

4. To kill (an animal) for purposes of scientific research or experimentation.

v.intr.

1. To offer a sacrifice: *The Greek warriors sacrificed to their gods.*

2. To make a sacrifice: *parents sacrificing for their children.*

3. *Baseball* To make a sacrifice bunt or sacrifice fly.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *sacrificium* : *sacer*, sacred; see [SACRED](#) + *facere*, to make; see [dhē-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

sac ri·fic'er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

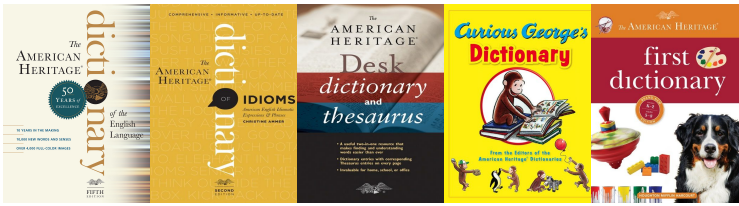
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