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jus·ti·fy  (jūs tə-ſtī')

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tr.v. **jus·ti·fied**, **jus·ti·fy·ing**, **jus·ti·fies**

1. To demonstrate or prove to be just, right, or valid: *justified each budgetary expense as necessary; anger that is justified by the circumstances.*
2. To free (a human) of the guilt and penalty attached to grievous sin. Used of God.
3. *Law*
 - a. To demonstrate sufficient legal reason for (an action taken).
 - b. To prove to be qualified as a bondsman.
4. To format (a paragraph, for example) so that the lines of text begin and end evenly at a straight margin.

[Middle English *justifien*, from Old French *justifier*, from Late Latin *iūstificāre*, from Latin, to act justly toward : *iūstus*, just; see [JUST](#)¹ + *-ficāre*, *-fy*.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

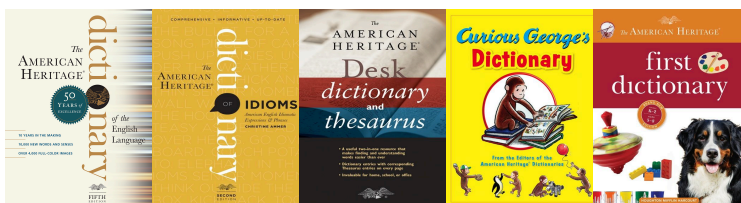
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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