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dictionary

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English
Language



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prof·it  (prŏf ĭt)

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n.

1. An advantageous gain or return; benefit.
2. Financial gain from a transaction or from a period of investment or business activity, usually calculated as income in excess of costs or as the final value of an asset in excess of its initial value.

v. **prof·it·ed, prof·it·ing, prof·its**

v.intr.

1. To make a gain or profit.
2. To derive advantage; benefit: *profiting from the other team's mistakes.*

v.tr.

To be beneficial to: *What has all this time in school profited you?*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *prŏfectus*, from past participle of *prŏficere*, make progress, to profit : *prŏ-*, forward; see [PRO-](#)¹ + *facere*, to make; see [dhē-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

prof it·less *adj.*

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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:

[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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