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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**rec·ti·fy**  (rĕk tă-fī')

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

1.

**a.** To set right; correct: *rectified the situation by adding more chairs so that more people could sit.* See Synonyms at [correct](#).

**b.** To correct by calculation or adjustment: *rectified the mathematical error.*

2. *Chemistry* To refine or purify, especially by distillation.

3. *Electronics* To convert (alternating current) into direct current.

4. To adjust (the proof of alcoholic beverages) by adding water or other liquids.

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[Middle English *rectifien*, from Old French *rectifier*, from Medieval Latin *rēctificāre* : Latin *rēctus*, right; see **reg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Latin *-ficāre*, *-fy*.]

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**rec ti·fi'a·ble** *adj.*

**rec·ti·fi·ca tion** (-fī-kā shən) *n.*

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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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