



The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars, creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language. Annual surveys have gauged the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions.

[The Panelists](#)



AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY APP

The new American Heritage Dictionary app is now available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY BLOG

The articles in our [blog](#) examine new words, revised definitions, interesting images from the fifth edition, discussions of usage, and more.

THE 100 WORDS®

See word lists from the best-selling 100 Words Series!

[Find out more!](#)



INTERESTED IN DICTIONARIES?

Check out the Dictionary Society of North America at <http://www.dictionariesociety.com>

DARE

Share: [Tweet](#)

abbr.

Dictionary of American Regional English

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

dare (dâr)

Share: [Tweet](#)

v. dared, dar·ing, dares

v.tr.

1. To have the courage required for: *The gymnast dared a breathtakingly difficult move.*
2. To challenge (someone) to do something requiring boldness: *They dared me to dive off the high board.*
3. To confront boldly; brave: *dared the dizzying heights of the mountain.* See Synonyms at [defy](#).

v.intr.

To be courageous or bold enough to do or try something: *Go ahead and dive if you dare.*

v.aux.

To be courageous or bold enough to: *I dare not say. How dare she go?*

n.

An act of daring; a challenge.

[Middle English *daren*, from Old English *dearr*, first and third person sing. present indicative of *durran*, to venture, dare; see **dhers-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

dar *er n.*

Usage Note: Depending on its sense, the verb *dare* sometimes behaves like an auxiliary verb (such as *can* or *may*) and sometimes like a main verb (such as *want* or *try*). When used as an auxiliary verb, *dare* does not change to agree with its subject: *He dare not do that again.* It also does not combine with *do* in questions, negations, or certain other constructions: *Dare we tell her the truth? I dare not mention their names.* Finally, it does not take *to* before the verb that follows it: *If you dare breathe a word about it, I'll never speak to you again.* When used as a main verb, *dare* does agree with its subject (*If he dares to show up at her house I'll be surprised*), and it does combine with *do* (*Did anyone dare to admit it?*). It may optionally take *to* before the verb following it: *No one dares (or dares to) speak freely about the political situation.* The auxiliary forms differ subtly in meaning from the main verb forms in that they emphasize the attitude or involvement of the speaker while the main verb forms present a more objective situation. Thus *How dare you operate this machinery without proper training?* expresses indignation at the action, whereas *How do you dare to operate this machinery without proper training?* is a genuine request for information. When *dare* is used as a transitive verb meaning "challenge," only main verb forms are possible and *to* is required: *Anyone who dares him to attempt it will be sorry.*

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

The first child of English parents born in America. She disappeared with other members of the Lost Colony of Roanoke Island in Virginia.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

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](#).

American Heritage Dictionary Products



[The American Heritage Dictionary, 5th Edition](#) [The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms](#) [The American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus](#) [Curious George's Dictionary](#) [The American Heritage Children's Dictionary](#)

- **CONTACT US**
 - [Customer Service](#)
 - [Make Me An Author](#)
 - [Ebooks Help with Glose Reader](#)
- **ABOUT US**
 - [Company Profile](#)
 - [Leadership Team](#)
 - [Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
 - [HarperCollins Careers](#)
 - [HarperCollins Imprints](#)
 - [HarperGreen](#)
 - [Social Media Directory](#)
 - [Accessibility](#)
- **FOR READERS**
 - [Browse Reading Guides](#)
- **FOR AUTHORS**
 - [Submit a Manuscript](#)
 - [Report Piracy](#)
 - [Agent Portal](#)
- **MEDIA**
 - [Publicity Contacts](#)
 - [Press Room](#)
- **SERVICES**
 - [HarperCollins Speakers Bureau](#)
 - [Library Services](#)
 - [Academic Services](#)
 - [Desk & Exam Copies](#)
- [Review Copies](#)
- [OpenBook API](#)
- [Marketing Partnerships](#)
- **COVID-19 RESOURCES & PERMISSIONS**
 - [Permissions for Adult Online Readings](#)
 - [Permissions for Kids Online Readings](#)
- **SALES & RIGHTS**
 - [Booksellers & Retailer Ordering](#)
 - [HarperCollins Catalogs](#)
 - [Permissions](#)
 - [Subsidiary Rights](#)

- [Media Rights and Content Development](#)
- **GLOSE APP**
- [iPhone](#)
- [Android](#)
-
-
-
- **GLOBAL DIVISIONS**
- [HarperCollins US](#)
- [HarperCollins Canada](#)
- [HarperCollins Christian](#)
- [HarperCollins Australia](#)
- [HarperCollins India](#)
-
- [HarperCollins UK](#)
-
-
-
-
-
-



News Corp

[Terms of Use](#) • [Terms of Sale](#) • [Your Ad Choices](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [California Privacy Policy](#)
[Do Not Sell My Personal Information](#)

Copyright 2022 HarperCollins Publishers All rights reserved.

*This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.