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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**feast** 🗣️ (fĕst)

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- n.*
- a.** A large, elaborately prepared meal, usually for many persons and often accompanied by entertainment; a banquet.
  - b.** A meal that is well prepared and abundantly enjoyed.
  - 2.** A periodic religious festival commemorating an event or honoring a god or saint.
  - 3.** Something giving great pleasure or satisfaction: *a book that is a veritable feast for the mind.*

*v.* **feast·ed, feast·ing, feasts**

*v.tr.*

To give a feast for; entertain or feed sumptuously: *feasted the guests on venison.*

*v.intr.*

- 1.** To partake of a feast; eat heartily.
- 2.** To experience something with gratification or delight: *feasted on the view.*

**Idiom:**

**feast (one's) eyes on**

To be delighted or gratified by the sight of: *We feasted our eyes on the paintings.*

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[Middle English *feste*, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin *\*fĕsta*, from Latin, pl. of *fĕstum*, from *fĕstus*, festive; see **dhēs-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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**feast** *er 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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