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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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**fes·ti·val**  (fěs tə-vəl)

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*n.*

1. An occasion for feasting or celebration, especially a day or time of religious significance that recurs at regular intervals.
2. An often regularly recurring program of cultural performances, exhibitions, or competitions: *a film festival*.
3. Revelry; conviviality.

*adj.*

Of, relating to, or suitable for a feast or festival; festive.

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[From Middle English, festive, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *fēstivālis*, from Latin *fēstīvus*, from *fēstus*; see **dhēs-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

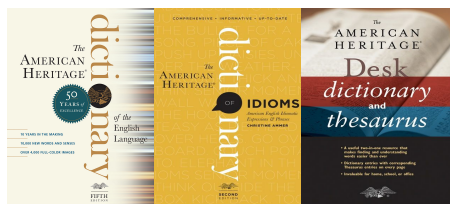
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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