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death  (dēth)

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n.

1.

a. The fact or process of dying; the end of life: *remained busy and active until death.*

b. An instance of dying: *There were many deaths caused by the flood.*

2. The state of being dead: *where the body lay in death.*

3. The cause of dying: *Drugs were the death of him.*

4. A manner of dying: *a heroine's death.*

5. often **Death** A personification of the destroyer of life, usually represented as a skeleton holding a scythe.

6.

a. Bloodshed; murder.

b. Execution.

7. *Law* Civil death.

8. The termination or extinction of something: *the death of imperialism.*

Idioms:

at death's door

Near to death; gravely ill or injured.

be the death of

To distress or irritate to an intolerable degree.

death on

Opposed to or strict about: *Our boss is death on casual dressing.*

put to death

To execute.

to death

To an intolerable degree; extremely: *We were bored to death by the presentation.*

to the death

Until one participant in a fight or struggle has died or been killed.

[Middle English *deeth*, from Old English *dēath*; see **dheu-**² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

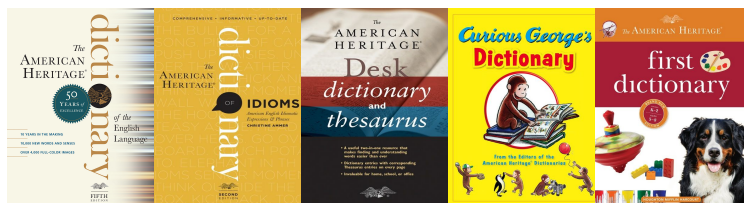
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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