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die ¹  (dī)

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intr.v. **died**, **dy·ing** (dī ɪŋ), **dies**

1. To stop living; become dead; expire: *plants that died in the first frost of the season.*
2. To cease existing, often gradually; fade: *The sunlight died in the west.*
3. To experience an intense, seemingly unbearable reaction to something: *nearly died of embarrassment.*
4. *Informal* To want something very much. Usually used in the progressive aspect: *I am dying for a box of chocolates. She was dying to see the exhibit.*
5. To stop working or operating: *The motor died when we ran out of gas.*
6. To become indifferent: *had died to all worldly concerns.*

Phrasal Verbs:

die back *Botany*

To be affected by dieback.

die down

To lose strength; subside: *The winds died down.*

die off

To undergo a sudden, sharp decline in population: *hypothesized that pesticides were causing bees to die off across the country.*

die out

To cease living or existing completely; become extinct: *a theory that explains how the dinosaurs died out; customs that died out with the advent of technology.*

Idioms:

die hard

1. To take a long time in passing out of existence: *racial prejudices that die hard.*
2. To resist against overwhelming, hopeless odds: *radicalism that dies hard.*

die on the vine

To fail, as from lack of support, especially at an early stage: *a plan that died on the vine.*

to die for *Informal*

Remarkable or highly desirable.

[Middle English *dien*, probably from Old Norse *deyja*; see **dheu-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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die ²  (dī)

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n.

1. *pl.* **dice** (dīs)

a. A small cube marked on each side with from one to six dots, usually used in pairs in gambling and in various other games.

b. **dice** (*used with a sing. verb*) A game of chance using dice.

2. *pl.* **dies** A device used for cutting out, forming, or stamping material, especially:

a. An engraved metal piece used for impressing a design onto a softer metal, as in coining money.

b. One of several component pieces that are fitted into a diestock to cut threads on screws or bolts.

- c. A part on a machine that punches shaped holes in, cuts, or forms sheet metal, cardboard, or other stock.
- d. A metal block containing small conical holes through which plastic, metal, or other ductile material is extruded or drawn.

3. *pl. dies Architecture* The dado of a pedestal, especially when cube-shaped.

tr.v. died, die-ing, dies

To cut, form, or stamp with or as if with a die.

Idioms:

load the dice

1. To make an outcome highly probable; predetermine a result: “*These factors merely load the dice, upping the odds that a household will fall into a certain ... income distribution*” (Thomas G. Exter).

2. To put another at a distinct disadvantage, as through prior maneuver: *The dice were loaded against the defendant before the trial.*

no dice

1. Of no use; futile.

2. Used as a refusal to a request.

the die is cast

The decision has been made and is irrevocable.

[Middle English *de*, gaming die, from Old French, possibly from Latin *datum*, given (as by fortune in the roll of the dice), neuter of *datus*, past participle of *dare*, to give; see **dā-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]



(click for a larger image)

die²

dies used to coin the euro

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

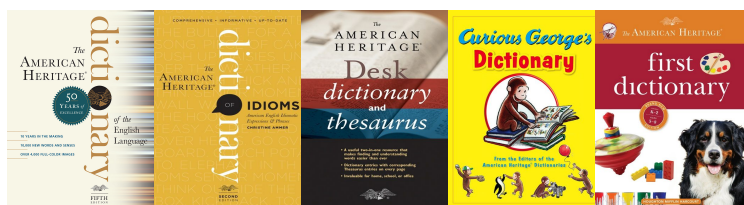
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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