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down¹  (down)

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- adv.*
1.
 - a. From a higher to a lower place or position: *hiked down from the peak.*
 - b. Toward, to, or on the ground, floor, or bottom: *tripped and fell down.*
 - c. Downstairs: *Let's go down and get some breakfast.*
 - d. In or into a sitting, kneeling, or reclining position: *knelt down; lying down.*
 - e. In or into one's stomach: *had trouble keeping his food down; washed down the pizza with soda.*
 - f. In writing or a record: *The reporter wrote the statement down. He's down as the best goal-scorer of his time.*
 - g. In partial payment at the time of purchase: *put \$250 down on the new refrigerator.*
 - h. Into or toward a secure position: *nailed down the boards; bolted the furniture down.*
 2.
 - a. Toward or in the south; southward: *flew down to Florida.*
 - b. Away from a place considered central or a center of activity, such as a city or town: *down on the farm; sent down to work at the firm's regional office.*
 - c. To a specific location or source: *tracking a rumor down.*
 3.
 - a. Toward or at a low or lower point on a scale: *from the biggest down to the smallest.*
 - b. From earlier times or people: *tradition handed down from one generation to the next.*
 4.
 - a. To or at a lower intensity or amount: *turned the volume down; prices going down.*
 - b. To or in a reduced or concentrated form: *pared the term paper down to five pages.*
 - c. To or in a quiescent or subdued state: *calmed down.*
 - d. In or into an inactive or inoperative state: *The generators went down at midnight.*
 - e. To or into a lower or inferior condition, as of subjection, defeat, or disgrace: *people kept down for decades.*
 5.
 - a. To an extreme degree; heavily: *worn down by worry.*
 - b. Seriously or vigorously: *get down to the project at hand.*
- adj.*
1.
 - a. Moving or directed downward: *a down elevator.*
 - b. Low or lower: *Stock prices were down today.*
 - c. Reduced; diminished: *The wind is down.*
 - d. Sports & Games Trailing an opponent: *a team down 20 points in the last quarter; down two pawns in chess.*
 2.
 - a. Afflicted; sick: *She's down with a bad cold.*
 - b. Malfunctioning or not operating, especially temporarily: *The computer is down.*
 - c. Low in spirits; depressed: *feeling down today.*
 3. *Football*
 - a. Not in play and at the place where offensive forward progress has stopped: *The ball is down on the 50-yard line.*
 - b. Not permitted to advance further in the play because forward progress has stopped, especially by being tackled. Used of a ball carrier.
 4. *Baseball* Retired; out: *two down in the last of the ninth.*
 5.
 - a. Completed; done: *three exams down, two to go.*

b. Learned or known perfectly: *had the algebra problems down.*

prep.

1.

a. In a descending direction along, upon, into, or through: *rolled down the hill; floating down the river; flowed down the pipe.*

b. In a sequential or temporal sequence: *knowledge passed down the ages.*

2. Along the course of: *walking down the street.*

3. In or at: *The cans are stored down cellar.*

n.

1.

a. A downward movement; descent: *the downs of the rollercoaster ride.*

b. A feeling of sadness or depression: *His frequent downs made him hard to live with.*

c. A misfortune or difficulty: *went through a lot of ups and downs before succeeding.*

2. **Football** Any of a series of four plays in American football or three plays in Canadian football during which a team must advance at least ten yards to retain possession of the ball.

v. **downed, down·ing, downs**

v.tr.

1. To bring, put, strike, or throw down: *downed his opponent in the first round.*

2. To swallow hastily; gulp: *downed the glass of water.*

3. **Football** To put (the ball) out of play by touching it to the ground or stepping out of bounds.

v.intr.

To go or come down; descend.

Idioms:

down on

Informal Hostile or negative toward; ill-disposed to: *was down on jogging after his injury.*

down on (one's) luck

Afflicted by misfortune.

down with

1. Used to express disapproval of someone or a wish to see someone removed from a position of authority: *Down with the king!*

2. *Slang*

a. Being in support of or agreement with something: *"He was not, I detected, 'down with the revolution'" (Clarence Page).*

b. Knowledgeable or aware of the latest trends or developments: *a hipster who is down with the newest fads.*

[Middle English *doun*, from Old English *-dūne* (as in *ofdūne*, downwards), from *dūne*, dative of *dūn*, hill; see **dheua-** in the [Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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down²  (down)

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n.

1. Fine, soft, fluffy feathers forming the first plumage of a young bird and underlying the contour feathers in certain adult birds.

2. **Botany** A covering of soft, short hairs, as on some leaves or fruit.

3. A soft, silky, or feathery substance, such as the first growth of a human beard.

[Middle English *doun*, from Old Norse *dūnn*.]

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n.

1. often **downs** An expanse of rolling upland, often treeless, grassy, and used for grazing.
2. often **Down** Any of several breeds of sheep having short wool, originally bred in the Downs of southern England.

[Middle English *doune*, from Old English *dūn*, hill; see *dheu-* in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

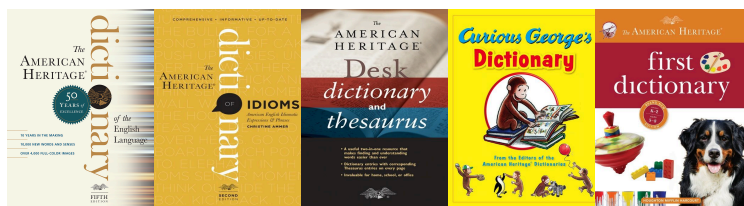
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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