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dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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**dike**<sup>1</sup> also **dyke**  (dīk)

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*n.*

**1.**

**a.** An embankment of earth and rock built to prevent floods.

**b.** *Chiefly British* A low wall, often of sod, dividing or enclosing lands.

**2.** A barrier blocking a passage, especially for protection.

**3.** A raised causeway.

**4.** A ditch; a channel.

**5.** *Geology* A long mass of igneous rock that cuts across the structure of adjacent rock.

*tr.v.* **diked**, **dik•ing**, **dikes** also **dyked** or **dyk•ing** or **dykes**

**1.** To protect, enclose, or provide with a dike.

**2.** To drain with dikes or ditches.

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[Middle English, from Old English *dīc*, trench; see **dhig**<sup>w</sup>- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#), and from Old Norse *dīki*, ditch.]

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**dike** *ern.*



(click for a larger image)

**dike**<sup>1</sup>

mafic dikes (the darker rock) in a mountain of granodiorite

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**dike**<sup>2</sup>  (dīk)

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*n.*

*Offensive Slang*

Variant of [dyke](#)<sup>2</sup>.

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

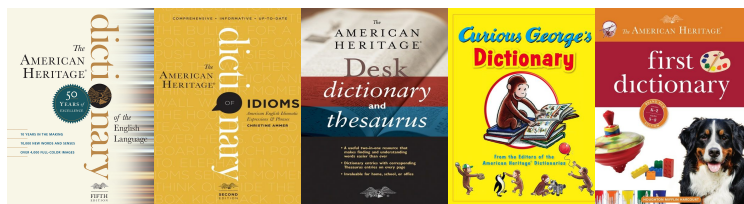
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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