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dig  (dĭg)

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v. **dug** (dŭg), **dig·ging**, **digs**

v.tr.

1. To break up, turn over, or remove (earth or sand, for example), as with a shovel, spade, or snout, or with claws, paws or hands.

2.

a. To make or form by removing earth or other material: *dig a trench; dug my way out of the snow.*

b. To prepare (soil) by loosening or cultivating.

3.

a. To obtain or unearth by digging: *dig coal out of a seam; dug potatoes from a field.*

b. To obtain or find by an action similar to digging: *dug a dollar out of his pocket; dug the puck out of the corner.*

4. To learn or discover by careful research or investigation: *dug up the evidence; dug out the real facts.*

5. To force down and into something; thrust: *dug his foot in the ground.*

6. To poke or prod: *dug me in the ribs.*

7. *Sports* To strike or redirect (a ball) just before it hits the ground, keeping it in play, as in tennis or volleyball.

8. *Slang*

a. To understand fully: *Do you dig what I mean?*

b. To like, enjoy, or appreciate: *"They really dig our music and, daddy, I dig swinging for them" (Louis Armstrong).*

c. To take notice of: *Dig that wild outfit.*

v.intr.

1. To loosen, turn over, or remove earth or other material.

2. To make one's way by or as if by pushing aside or removing material: *dug through the files.*

3. *Slang* To have understanding: *Do you dig?*

n.

1. A poke or thrust: *a sharp dig in the ribs.*

2. A sarcastic, taunting remark; a gibe.

3. An archaeological excavation.

4. *Sports* An act or an instance of digging a ball.

5. **digs** Lodgings.

Phrasal Verb:

dig in

1. To dig trenches for protection.

2. To hold on stubbornly, as to a position; entrench oneself.

3. To begin to work intensively.

4. To begin to eat heartily.

Idioms:

dig in (one's) heels

To resist opposition stubbornly; refuse to yield or compromise.

dig it out

Slang To run as fast as one can, especially as a base runner in baseball.

[Middle English *diggen*; perhaps akin to Old French *digue*, dike, trench; see **dhig**^W-[in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Our Living Language In its slang sense of "to enjoy," *dig* is one of the many words and expressions that come from African American Vernacular English. Like *cool*, it is first recorded in 1930s jazz circles. While several AAVE expressions that have entered colloquial American English from jazz still have musical associations, many others do not, and quite a few are so ordinary today that their origin in AAVE is not at all obvious. Some are no longer regarded as slang, such as *badmouth*, *cakewalk*, *nitty-gritty*, and *main man*. Others, like *fox* (sexy woman), *gig*, and *chump change* are still slang or informal. Of course, American slang has received terms from other musical genres besides jazz and rap. For instance, *emo* was first used for an often "emotional" genre of rock music originating in the 1980s, and has since been extended to mean "angst-filled, melancholy, or sad."



(click for a larger image)

dig

Andrew Schacht of Australia at the 2007 Beach Volleyball World Championships
Gstaad, Switzerland

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

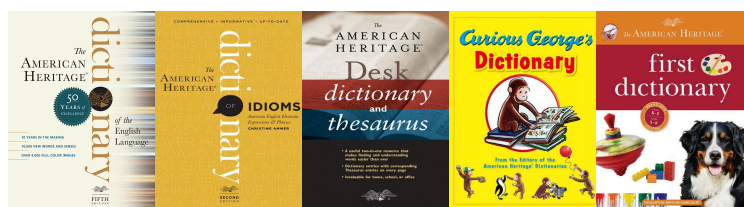
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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