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cru·ci·fy  (kr sə-fī')

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tr.v. **cru·ci·fied**, **cru·ci·fy·ing**, **cru·ci·fies**

1. To put (a person) to death by nailing or binding to a cross.
2. To mortify or subdue (the flesh).
3. To treat cruelly; torment: *crucified the awkward child with teasing.*
4. To criticize harshly; pillory: *The media crucified the politician for breaking a campaign pledge.*

[Middle English *crucifien*, from Old French *crucifier*, alteration of Latin *crucifigere* : *crux*, *cruc-*, cross + *figere*, to attach; see **dhīg**^W- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cru ci-fi'er *n.*

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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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[Semitic Roots](#)

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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