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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
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**pledge**  (plěj)

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*n.*

1. A solemn binding promise to do, give, or refrain from doing something: *signed a pledge never to reveal the secret; a pledge of money to a charity.*

2.

a. Something given or held as security to guarantee payment of a debt or fulfillment of an obligation.

b. The condition of something thus given or held: *put an article in pledge.*

3. *Law*

a. Delivery of goods or personal property as security for a debt or obligation: *a loan requiring a pledge of property.*

b. The contract or transaction stipulating or involving such delivery.

4. A token or sign: *"fair pledges of a fruitful tree" (Robert Herrick).*

5. A person who has been accepted for membership in a fraternity or similar organization and has promised to join but has not yet been initiated.

6. A vow to abstain from alcoholic liquor: *ex-drinkers who have taken the pledge.*

7. *Archaic* The act of drinking in honor of someone; a toast.

*v.* **pledged, pledg-ing, pledg-es**

*v.tr.*

1. To offer or guarantee by a solemn binding promise: *pledge loyalty to a nation; pledge that the duties of the office will be fulfilled.* See Synonyms at [promise](#).

2. To bind or secure by a pledge or promise: *pledged themselves to the cause.* See Synonyms at [devote](#).

3. To deposit as security; pawn.

4.

a. To promise to join (a fraternity or similar organization).

b. To accept as a prospective member of such an organization.

5. *Archaic* To drink a toast to.

*v.intr.*

1. To make a solemn binding promise; swear.

2. *Archaic* To drink a toast.

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[Middle English, from Old French *plege*, probably from Late Latin *plevium*, a security, of Germanic origin; see [dleg-](#) in the [Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

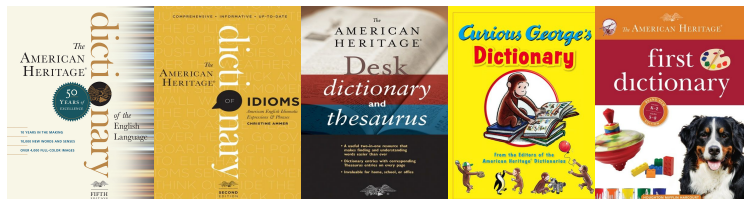
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

## [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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