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in·dulge  (ĭn-dŭlj)

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v. **in·dulged**, **in·dulg·ing**, **in·dulg·es**

v.tr.

1.

a. To yield to (a desire or whim); gratify: *indulge a craving for chocolate.*

b. To yield to the desires or whims of (someone), often excessively: *We indulged our daughter on her birthday.* See Synonyms at [pamper](#).

2. *Roman Catholic Church* To grant an ecclesiastical indulgence or dispensation to.

v.intr.

1. To indulge oneself: *eyed the desserts but didn't indulge.*

2. To engage or take part, especially freely or avidly: *indulged in outrageous behavior; indulged in all the latest fads.*

[Latin *indulgēre*; see **dlegh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·dulg 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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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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