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dictionary

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Language



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da·tive  (dā tĭv)

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adj.

Of, relating to, or being the grammatical case that marks the recipient of action, that often indicates the indirect object of the verb, and that can be used with prepositions or other function words corresponding in meaning to English *to* and *for*.

n.

1. The dative case.
2. A word or form in the dative case.

[Middle English *datif*, from Latin (*cāsus*) *datīvus*, (case) of giving (translation of Greek *dotikē ptōsis*), from *datus*, past participle of *dare*, to give; see **dō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

da tive·ly *adv.*

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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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