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par·don  (pär dn)

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tr.v. **par·doned**, **par·don·ing**, **par·dons**

1. To release (a person) from punishment or disfavor for wrongdoing or a fault: *a convicted criminal who was pardoned by the governor*. See Synonyms at [forgive](#).
2. To allow (an offense or fault) to pass without punishment or disfavor.
3. To make courteous allowance for; excuse: *Pardon me, I'm in a hurry*.

n.

1. The act of pardoning.
2. *Law*
 - a. Exemption of a convicted person from the penalties of an offense or crime by the power of the executor of the laws.
 - b. An official document or warrant declaring such an exemption.
3. Allowance or forgiveness for an offense or a discourtesy: *begged the host's pardon for leaving early*.
4. *Roman Catholic Church* An indulgence.

[Middle English *pardonen*, from Old French *pardonner*, from Vulgar Latin **perdōnāre*, to give wholeheartedly : Latin *per-*, intensive pref.; see [PER-](#) + Latin *dōnāre*, to present, forgive (from *dōnum*, gift; see **dō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

par don·a·ble *adj.*

par don·a·bly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

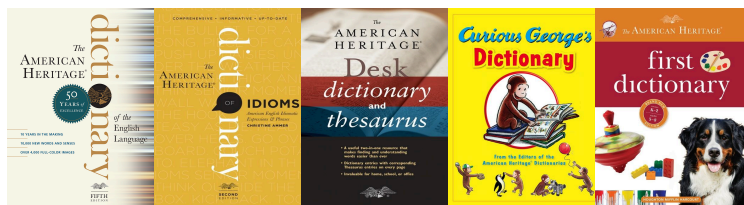
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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