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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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Ju•pi•ter (j pĭ-tər)

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n.

1. *Roman Mythology* The supreme god, patron of the Roman state and brother and husband of Juno. He came to be identified with the Greek Zeus. Also called *Jove*.
2. *Astronomy* The fifth planet from the sun, the largest and most massive in the solar system, having a sidereal period of revolution about the sun of 11.86 years at a mean distance of 778.6 million kilometers (483.8 million miles), a mean diameter of approximately 143,000 kilometers (89,000 miles), and a mass approximately 320 times that of Earth.

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



(click for a larger image)



Jupiter

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Jupiter

top: 1st-century ad Roman sardonyx on 14th-century gold and enamel mount

bottom: the planet Jupiter

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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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