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Me·rid-i-an  (mə-rĭd ē-ən)

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A city of eastern Mississippi near the Alabama border east of Jackson. A confederate base during the Civil War, it developed as a railroad junction.

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me·rid-i-an  (mə-rĭd ē-ən)

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n.

1.

- a. An imaginary great circle on the earth's surface passing through the North and South geographic poles.
- b. Either half of such a great circle from pole to pole. All points on the same meridian have the same longitude.

2. *Astronomy* A great circle passing through the two poles of the celestial sphere and the zenith of a given observer. Also called *celestial meridian*, *local meridian*, *vertical circle*.

3. *Mathematics*

a. A curve on a surface of revolution, formed by the intersection of the surface with a plane containing the axis of revolution.

b. A plane section of a surface of revolution containing the axis of revolution.

4. Any of the longitudinal lines or pathways on the body along which the acupuncture points are distributed.

5. *Archaic*

a. The highest point in the sky reached by the sun or another celestial body; a zenith.

b. The time at which the sun reaches its highest point in the sky; noon.

6. The highest point or stage of development; peak: "*Men come to their meridian at various periods of their lives*" (*John Henry Newman*).

7. *Midwestern US* See [median](#).

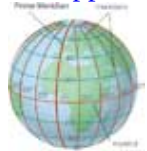
adj.

1. Of or relating to a meridian; meridional.

2. Of or at midday: *the meridian hour*.

3. Of, relating to, or constituting the highest point, as of development or power: *the empire in its meridian period*.

[Middle English, from Old French, midday, from Latin *meridiānus*, of midday, from *meridies*, midday, from *meridie*, at midday, alteration of earlier **medidie*, from **mediei die* : **mediei*, dative (locative) of *medius*, middle; see [medhyo-](#) in [The Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *die*, dative of *dies*, day; see [dyeu-](#) in [The Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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meridian

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

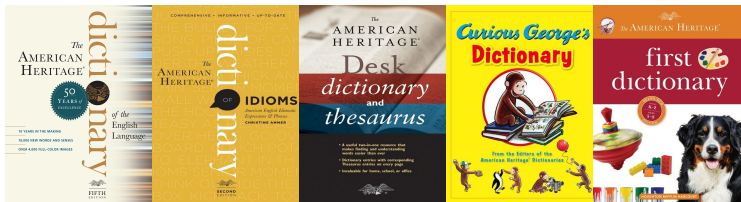
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[Semitic Roots](#)

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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