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strange  (strānj)

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adj. **strang·er, strang·est**

1.

a. Not previously known; unfamiliar: *saw lots of strange faces at the reception; heard music that was strange to me.*

b. Not of one's own or a particular locality, environment, or kind; not native: *came across a flower that was strange to the region.*

2. Out of the ordinary or difficult to account for; unusual or peculiar: *Events took a strange twist last week.*

3.

a. Reserved in manner; distant or cool: *The once affable man slowly became strange to his friends.*

b. Not comfortable or at ease: *I felt strange and out of place at the party because I didn't know any of the guests.*

4. Not accustomed or conditioned: *She was strange to her new duties.*

5. *Physics* Of, relating to, or exhibiting strangeness.

adv.

In a strange manner: *He's been acting strange lately.*

[Middle English, from Old French *estrange*, extraordinary, foreign, from Latin *extrāneus*, adventitious, foreign, from *extrā*, outside, from feminine ablative of *exter*, outward; see **eghs** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

strange *ly adv.*

Synonyms: [strange](#), [odd](#), [peculiar](#), [eccentric](#), [outlandish](#)

These adjectives describe what deviates from the usual or customary. *Strange* refers especially to what is unfamiliar, unknown, or inexplicable: *It was strange to see so many people out walking around at night.* Something that is *odd* fails to accord with what is ordinary, usual, or expected and suggests strangeness: *"There was certainly something odd about the stars: perhaps there was more color in them, for they glittered like tiny gems"* (Neil Gaiman).

Similarly, *peculiar* describes what is odd or unusual, but often with an emphasis on distinctness or individuality: *She has a peculiar kind of handwriting that is at once pleasant to look at but hard to read.* *Eccentric* refers particularly to what is strange and departs strikingly from the conventional: *His musical compositions were innovative but eccentric.* *Outlandish* suggests alien or bizarre strangeness: *The partygoers wore outlandish costumes.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

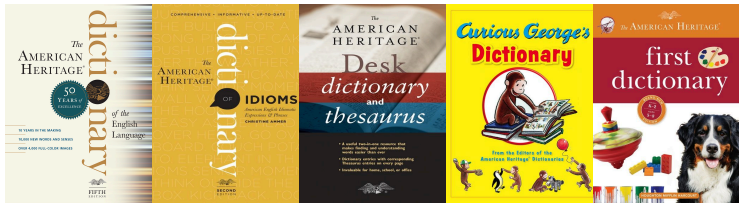
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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