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ex·treme  (ĭk-strēm)

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adj.

1. Most remote in any direction; outermost or farthest: *the extreme edge of the field.*
2. Being in or attaining the greatest or highest degree; very intense: *extreme pleasure; extreme pain.*
3. Being far beyond the norm: *an extreme conservative.* See Synonyms at [excessive](#).
4. Of the greatest severity; drastic: *took extreme measures to conserve fuel.*
5. *Biology*
 - a. Characterized by severe, usually oxygen-poor environmental conditions.
 - b. Having an affinity for such conditions: *an extreme microorganism.*
6. *Sports*
 - a. Very dangerous or difficult: *extreme rafting.*
 - b. Participating or tending to participate in a very dangerous or difficult sport: *an extreme skier.*
7. *Archaic* Final; last.

n.

1. The greatest or utmost degree or point.
2. Either of the two things situated at opposite ends of a range: *the extremes of boiling and freezing.*
3. An extreme condition.
4. An immoderate, drastic expedient: *resorted to extremes in the emergency.*
5. *Mathematics*
 - a. The first or last term of a ratio or a series.
 - b. A maximum or minimum value of a function.
6. *Logic* The major or minor term of a syllogism.

Idiom:

in the extreme

To an extreme degree: *eccentric in the extreme.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *extrēmus*; see **eghs** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ex·treme ly *adv.*

ex·treme ness *n.*

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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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