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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**tran·sit**  (trăn sīt, -zīt)

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*n.*

1. The act of passing over, across, or through; passage.

2.

a. Conveyance of people or goods from one place to another, especially on a local public transportation system.

b. The system or vehicles used for such conveyance.

3. A transition or change, as to a spiritual existence at death.

4. *Astronomy*

a. The passage of a celestial body across the observer's meridian.

b. The passage of a smaller celestial body or its shadow across the disk of a larger celestial body.

5. A surveying instrument similar to a theodolite that measures horizontal and vertical angles.

v. **tran·sit·ed**, **tran·sit·ing**, **tran·sits**

*v.tr.*

1. To pass over, across, or through: *aircraft transiting the United States and Canada.*

2. *Astronomy* To make a transit across (a celestial body as perceived by an observer), as a planet passing between the sun and Earth.

3. To revolve (the telescope of a surveying transit) about its horizontal transverse axis in order to reverse its direction.

*v.intr.*

*Astronomy*

To make a transit.

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[Middle English *transite*, from Latin *trānsitus*, from past participle of *trānsīre*, to go across; see [TRANSIENT](#).]

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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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