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dictionary

of the
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Language



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i·ron  (ī ərn)

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n.

1. **Symbol Fe** A silvery-white, lustrous, malleable, ductile, magnetic or magnetizable, metallic element occurring abundantly in combined forms, notably in hematite, limonite, magnetite, and taconite, and used alloyed in a wide range of important structural materials. Atomic number 26; atomic weight 55.845; melting point 1,538°C; boiling point 2,861°C; specific gravity 7.874 (at 20°C); valence 2, 3, 4, 6. See [Periodic Table](#).

2. An implement made of iron alloy or similar metal, especially a bar heated for use in branding, curling hair, or cauterizing.

3. Great hardness or strength; firmness: *a will of iron*.

4. **Sports** Any of a series of golf clubs having a bladelike metal head and numbered from one to nine in order of increasing loft.

5. A metal appliance with a handle and a weighted flat bottom, used when heated to press wrinkles from fabric.

6. A harpoon.

7. **irons** Fetters; shackles.

8. A tonic, pill, or other medication containing iron and taken as a dietary supplement.

adj.

1. Made of or containing iron: *iron bars*; *an iron alloy*.

2. Strong, healthy, and capable of great endurance: *an iron constitution*.

3. Inflexible; unyielding: *iron resolve*.

4. Holding tightly; very firm: *has an iron grip*.

v. **i·roned, i·ron·ing, i·rons**

v.tr.

1.

a. To press and smooth with a heated iron: *iron clothes*.

b. To remove (creases) by pressing.

2. To put into irons; fether.

3. To fit or clad with iron.

v.intr.

To iron clothes.

Phrasal Verb:

iron out

To settle through discussion or compromise; work out.

Idioms:

in irons *Nautical*

Lying head to the wind without steerageway and thus unable to turn either way.

iron in the fire

An undertaking or project in progress: *has many irons in the fire this year*.

[Middle English *iren*, from Old English *īren*; see **eis-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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

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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