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prompt  (prŏmpt)

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adj. **prompt·er, prompt·est**

1. Being on time; punctual.
2. Carried out or performed without delay: *a prompt reply*.

tr.v. **prompt·ed, prompt·ing, prompts**

1. To move to act; spur; incite: *A noise prompted the guard to go back and investigate*.
2. To give rise to; inspire: *The accident prompted a review of school safety policy*.
3. To assist with a reminder; remind.
4. To assist (an actor or reciter) by providing the next words of a forgotten passage; cue.

n.

1.

a. The act of prompting or giving a cue.

b. A reminder or cue.

2. *Computers* A symbol that appears on a monitor to indicate that the computer is ready to receive input.

3. Something which inspires a response, especially a statement or series of questions designed to provoke creative or critical thought from a student: *In English class today, the teacher gave us the prompt for our final essay*.

[Middle English, ready, from Old French, from Latin *prŏmptus*, from past participle of *prŏmere*, to bring forth : *prŏ-*, forth; see [PRO-](#)¹ + *emere*, to take, obtain; see **em-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

prompt *er n.*

prompt *ti·tude*′ (prŏmp tĭ-t d′, -ty d′), **prompt** *ness* (prŏmpt nĭs) *n.*

prompt *ly adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

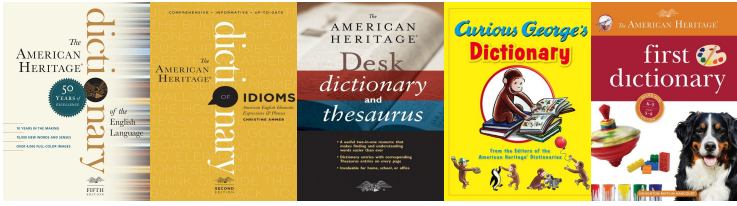
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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