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re·deem  (rĭ-dēm)

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tr.v. **re·deemed**, **re·deem·ing**, **re·deems**

1. To recover ownership of by paying a specified sum: *redeemed the ring from the pawnbroker.*
2.
 - a. To pay off (a promissory note, for example).
 - b. To turn in (coupons, for example) and receive something in exchange.
 - c. To convert into cash: *redeem stocks.*
3. To fulfill (a pledge, for example): *"That is the unfinished work of our time, to lift the burden of race and redeem the promise of America" (Bill Clinton).*
4.
 - a. To set free, as from slavery or kidnapping, by providing money or other compensation.
 - b. To save (a person or soul) from a state of sinfulness and its consequences. See Synonyms at [save](#)¹.
 - c. To restore the honor, worth, or reputation of: *You botched the last job but can redeem yourself on this one.*
5.
 - a. To atone for (an error or mistake): *"a silence that gave Maisie a chance to redeem the mistake of pretending to know too much by the humility of inviting further correction" (Henry James).*
 - b. To serve as compensation for; make up for: *The low price of the clothes dryer redeems its lack of special features.*

[Middle English *redemen*, from Old French *redimer*, from Latin *redimere* : *re-*, *red-*, *re-* + *emere*, to buy; see **em-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

re·deem **a·ble** *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

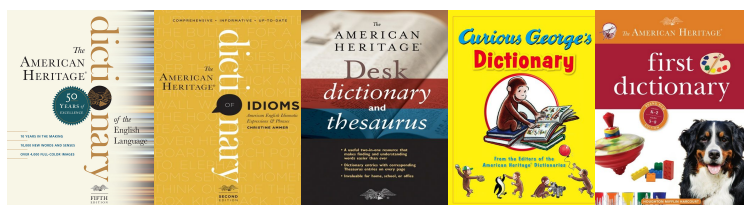
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