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enter-

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pref.

Variant of [entero-](#).

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en·ter  (ĕn tər)

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v. en·tered, en·ter·ing, en·ters

v.tr.

1. To come or go into: *The train entered the tunnel.*
2. To penetrate; pierce: *The bullet entered the victim's skull.*
3. To introduce; insert: *She entered the probe into the patient's artery.*
4.
 - a. To become a participant, member, or part of; join: *too old to enter the army; entered the discussion at a crucial moment.*
 - b. To gain admission to (a school, for example).
5. To cause to become a participant, member, or part of; enroll: *entered the children in private school; entered dahlias in a flower show.*
6. To embark on; begin: *With Sputnik, the Soviet Union entered the space age.*
7. To make a beginning in; take up: *entered medicine.*
8. To write or put in: *entered our names in the guest book; enters the data into the computer.*
9. To place formally on record; submit: *enter a plea of not guilty; enter a complaint.*
10. To go to or occupy in order to claim possession of (land).
11. To report (a ship or cargo) to customs.

v.intr.

1. To come or go in; make an entry: *As the president entered, the band played "Hail to the Chief."*
2. To effect penetration.
3. To become a member or participant.

n.

A key on a keyboard or keypad used to enter or confirm a command or other textual input.

Phrasal Verbs:

enter into

1. To participate in; take an active role or interest in: *enter into politics; enter into negotiations.*
2. To become party to (a contract): *The nations entered into a trade agreement.*
3. To become a component of; form a part of: *Financial matters entered into the discussion.*
4. To consider; investigate: *The report entered into the effect of high interest rates on the market.*

enter on (or upon)

1. To set out on; begin: *We enter on a new era in our history.*
 2. To begin considering; take up: *After discussing the budget deficit, they entered on the problem of raising taxes.*
 3. To take possession of: *She entered upon the estate of her uncle.*
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[Middle English *entren*, from Old French *entrer*, from Latin *intrāre*, from *intrā*, inside; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

en *ter·a·ble* *adj.*

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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](#)

[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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