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race¹  (rās)

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n.

1. A group of people identified as distinct from other groups because of supposed physical or genetic traits shared by the group. Most biologists and anthropologists do not recognize race as a biologically valid classification, in part because there is more genetic variation within groups than between them.
2. A group of people united or classified together on the basis of common history, nationality, or geographic distribution: *the Celtic race*.
3. A genealogical line; a lineage.
4. Humans considered as a group.
5. *Biology*
 - a. A usually geographically isolated population of organisms that differs from other populations of the same species in certain heritable traits: *an island race of birds*.
 - b. A breed or strain, as of domestic animals.
6. A distinguishing or characteristic quality, such as the flavor of a wine.

adj.

1. Of or relating to race; racial: *race relations*; *race quotas*.
2. Of or relating to forms of popular entertainment made by and largely marketed to African Americans in the early 1900s: *race literature*; *race records*.

[Middle French *rasse*, *race*, lineage, race, from Old Italian *razza*, probably from Old French *haraz*, stud farm for horses : Old French **har-*, gray, gray-haired (as in French dialectal (Normandy) *harousse*, nag, old mare; perhaps in reference to the graying of stud horses with age and from Old Norse *hārr*, gray-haired, hoary; akin to English [HOAR](#)) or Old French **har-*, hair (perhaps in reference to the fact that stud horses are no longer regularly saddled; akin to French dialectal (Norman) *har*, hair, in *monter á har*, to ride on hair, ride bareback, from Old Norse *hār*, hair; akin to English [HAIR](#)) + Old French *-az*, *-as*, n. suff. (from Latin *-āceus*, *-aceous*).]

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race²  (rās)

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n.

1. *Sports*
 - a. A competition of speed, as in running or riding.
 - b. **aces** A series of such competitions held at a specified time on a regular course: *a fan of the dog races*.
2. An extended competition in which participants struggle like runners to be the winner: *the presidential race*.
3. Steady or rapid onward movement: *the race of time*.
4.
 - a. A strong or swift current of water.
 - b. The channel of such a current.
 - c. An artificial channel built to transport water and use its energy. Also called *raceway*.
5. A groovelike part of a machine in which a moving part slides or rolls.
6. See [slipstream](#).

v. **raced**, **rac·ing**, **rac·es**

v.intr.

1. *Sports* To compete in a contest of speed.

2. To move rapidly or at top speed: *We raced home. My heart was racing with fear.*

3. To run too rapidly due to decreased resistance or unnecessary provision of fuel: *adjusted the idle to keep the engine from racing.*

v.tr.

1. *Sports*

a. To compete against in a race.

b. To cause to compete in a race: *She races horses for a living.*

2. To transport rapidly or at top speed; rush: *raced the injured motorist to the hospital.*

3. To cause (an engine with the gears disengaged, for example) to run swiftly or too swiftly.

[Middle English *ras*, from Old Norse *rās*, rush, running; see **ers-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Race 🗣️ (rās), **Cape**

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A promontory of southeast Newfoundland, Canada, on the coast of the Avalon Peninsula.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

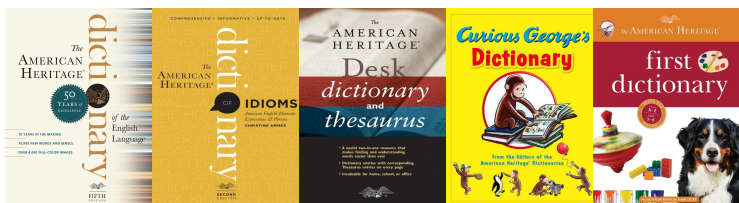
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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