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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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yes  (yěs)

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adv.

It is so; as you say or ask. Used to express affirmation, agreement, positive confirmation, or consent.

n. pl. **yes·es** also **yes·ses**

1. An affirmative or consenting reply.

2. An affirmative vote or voter.

tr.v. **yessed**, **yes·sing**, **yes·es** also **yes·ses**

To give an affirmative reply to.

interj.

Used to express great satisfaction, approval, or happiness.

[Middle English, from Old English *gēse*, so be it! : probably *gēa*, so; see *i-* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *sīe*, may it be so; see *es-* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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](#)

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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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