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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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os·si·a  (ō-sē ə)

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conj.

Music

Or else. Used as a direction to the performer to designate an alternate section or passage.

[Italian, from *o sia*, or let it be : *o*, or (from Latin *aut*) + *sia*, third person sing. present subjunctive of *essere*, to be (from Latin *esse*; see **es-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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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:

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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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