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pres·ent¹  (prěz ənt)

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n.

1. A moment or period in time perceptible as intermediate between past and future; now.

2. *Grammar*

a. The present tense.

b. A verb form in the present tense.

3. **presents** *Law* The document or instrument in question: *Be it known by these presents.*

adj.

1. Existing or happening now; current: *the present leader; present trends.*

2.

a. Being at hand or in attendance: *Thirty guests were present at the ceremony.*

b. Existing in something specified: *Oxygen is present in the bloodstream.*

3. Now being considered; actually here or involved: *the present subject; present company excepted.*

4. *Grammar* Designating a verb tense or form that expresses current time.

5. *Archaic* Readily available; immediate.

6. *Obsolete* Alert to circumstances; attentive.

Idioms:

at present

At the present time; right now.

for the present

For the time being; temporarily.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *praesēns*, *praesent-*, present participle of *praeesse*, to be present : *prae-*, pre- + *esse*, to be; see **es-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pres ent·ness *n.*

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pre·sent²  (prĭ-zěnt)

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v. **pre·sent·ed, pre·sent·ing, pre·sents**

v.tr.

1.

a. To make a gift or award of: *presented the medal to the winner.*

b. To make a gift to: *presented the winner with a medal.*

2.

a. To offer for observation, examination, or consideration; show or display: *The detective presented his badge.*

b. To offer (a play, for example) for public entertainment.

c. To afford or furnish: *The situation presented us with a chance to improve our knowledge.*

d. To turn or position in the direction of another: *presented his face to the camera.*

e. *Immunology* To display (an antigen) on the cell surface. Used especially of cells such as macrophages and dendritic cells, where the displayed antigen activates T cells as part of an immune response.

3. To represent or depict in a certain manner: *The movie presents bankers as greedy and coldhearted.*
 4.
 - a. To introduce, especially with formal ceremony.
 - b. To introduce (a young woman) to society with conventional ceremony.
 5. To hold, carry, or point (a weapon) in a particular manner as a salutation or sign of honor, usually along the center axis of the body.
 6. *Ecclesiastical* To recommend (a cleric) for a benefice.
- v.intr.*
1. To make a presentation.
 2. *Medicine*
 - a. To be evident or manifest. Used of a disease or condition: *how Lyme disease presents in its later stages.*
 - b. To exhibit symptoms or signs during a medical examination: *The patient presented with headache and heel pain.*
- n.*
1. **pres·ent** (prĕz ənt) Something presented; a gift.
 2. **pre·sent** (prĭ-zĕnt) The position of a rifle or other weapon when presented.

[Middle English *presenten*, from Old French *presenter*, from Latin *presentāre*, to show, from *praesēns*, *praesent-*, present participle of *praesesse*, to be in front of; see [PRESENT](#)¹.]

pre·sent *er n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

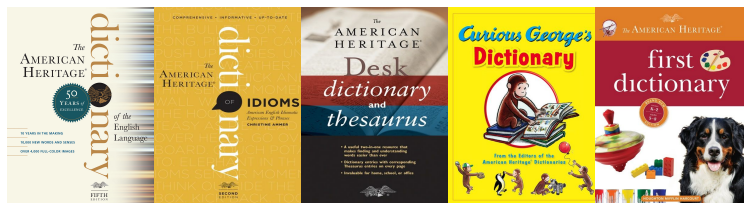
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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