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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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va·cate  (vā kāt', vā-kāt)

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v. va·cat·ed, va·cat·ing, va·cates

v.tr.

1.

a. To cease to occupy (a lodging or place); leave: *vacate an apartment.*

b. To cease to hold (a job or position): *vacated his position on the firm's board.*

2. Law To make void or annul (an erroneous lower court decision): *vacate a death sentence.*

v.intr.

To leave a lodging, place, job, or position.

[Latin *vacāre*, *vacāt-*, to be empty; see **eu-** [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:

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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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