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a·void  (ə-void)

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tr.v. **a·void·ed**, **a·void·ing**, **a·voids**

1.

a. To stay clear of; go around or away from: *swerve to avoid a pothole.*

b. To take measures so as not to meet or see (someone): *"He never let go of the idea that she lived out there in order to avoid him"* ([Elizabeth Benedict](#)).

2. To prevent from happening: *You can avoid illness with exercise and a balanced diet.*

3.

a. To refrain from using, engaging in, or partaking of: *avoid red meat; avoid risky behavior.*

b. To refrain from (doing something): *It was all we could do to avoid laughing at the remark.*

4. *Law* To annul or make void; invalidate.

5. *Obsolete* To void or expel.

[Middle English *avoiden*, from Anglo-Norman *avoider*, to empty out, variant of Old French *esvuidier* : *es-*, out (from Latin *ex-*; see [EX-](#)) + *vuidier*, to empty (from *voide*, empty; see [VOID](#)).]

a·void **a·ble** *adj.*

a·void **a·bly** *adv.*

a·void **er** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

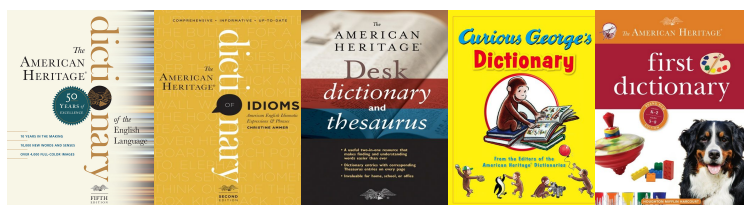
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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