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e·vac·u·ate  (ĭ-văk y -ăt')

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v. e·vac·u·at·ed, e·vac·u·at·ing, e·vac·u·ates

v.tr.

1.

a. To withdraw or depart from; vacate: *The coastal areas were evacuated before the hurricane made landfall.*

b. To withdraw or send away (troops or inhabitants) from a threatened area: *The Coast Guard helped evacuate the citizens after the flood.*

c. To relinquish military possession or occupation of (a town, for example).

2. To excrete or discharge waste matter from (the bowel, for example).

3.

a. To empty or remove the contents of (a closed space or container).

b. To empty or remove (fluid, for example) from a closed space or container.

c. To create a vacuum in.

v.intr.

1. To withdraw from or vacate a place or area, especially as a protective measure: *The mayor urged the residents to evacuate before the hurricane struck.*

2. To excrete waste matter from the body.

[Middle English *evacuaten*, to expel (excessive or morbid humors) from the body (according to medieval theories of physiology), from Latin *ēvacuāre*, *ēvacuāt-*, to empty out : *ē-*, *ex-*, *ex-* + *vacuus*, empty (from *vacāre*, to be empty; see *eu-* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

e·vac u·a'tive *adj.*

e·vac u·a'tor *n.*

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[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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