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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

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**na·da**  (nä də)

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*pron.*

*Slang*

Nothing; zero.

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[Spanish, nothing, from Old Spanish, from Vulgar Latin *\*(rēs) nāta*, born (thing), anything (used in the phrase *\*nōn ... rēs nāta*, not ... anything, literally "not a born thing," probably on the model of *\*hominēs nātī*, anyone, literally "born people") : Latin *rēs*, thing + Latin *nāta*, feminine of *nātus*, past participle of *nāscī*, to be born; see **gena-** [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:

[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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