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Language



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ren·ais·sance (rĕn ă-sāns', -zāns', rĭ-nā səns)

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n.

1. A rebirth or revival.

2. **Renaissance**

a. The humanistic revival of classical art, architecture, literature, and learning that originated in Italy in the 14th century and later spread throughout Europe.

b. The period of this revival, roughly the 14th through the 16th century, marking the transition from medieval to modern times.

3. often **Renaissance**

a. A revival of intellectual or artistic achievement and vigor: *the Celtic Renaissance*.

b. The period of such a revival.

adj. **Renaissance**

1. Of, relating to, or characteristic of the Renaissance or its artistic and intellectual works and styles.

2. Of or being the style of architecture and decoration, based on classical models, that originated in Italy in the 14th century and continued throughout Europe up to the end of the 16th century.

[French, from Old French, from *renaistre*, to be born again, from Vulgar Latin **renāscere*, from Latin *renāscī* : *re-*, *re-* + *nāscī*, to be born; see **gen-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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Renaissance

top: Château de Chambord

Chambord, France

bottom: The Return of Judith

to Bethulia, c. 1469,

by Sandro Botticelli

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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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