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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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choose  (ch z)

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v. **chose** (chōz), **cho·sen** (chō zən), **choos·ing**, **choos·es**

v.tr.

1. To select from a number of possible alternatives; decide on and pick out: *Which book did you choose at the library?*

2.

a. To prefer above others: *chooses the supermarket over the neighborhood grocery store.*

b. To determine or decide: *chose to fly rather than drive.*

v.intr.

To make a choice; make a selection: *was used to doing as she chose.*

Phrasal Verb:

choose up

To choose players and form sides or teams for a game, such as baseball or softball.

Idiom:

cannot choose but

Can only do; cannot do otherwise: *We cannot choose but to observe the rules.*

[Middle English *chesen*, from Old English *cēosan*; see **geus-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

choos er *n.*

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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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