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gath·er  (găth ər)

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v. gath·ered, gath·er·ing, gath·ers

v. tr.

1.

a. To collect from different places; assemble: *gather the pieces of a puzzle; gather information.*

b. To cause to come together; convene: *The teacher gathered the students around the exhibit.*

c. To draw (something or someone) closer to oneself: *gathered the shawl about my shoulders; gathered the child in her arms.*

d. To draw into small folds or puckers, as by pulling a thread through cloth.

e. To contract and wrinkle (the brow).

2. To harvest or pick: *gather crops; gather mushrooms.*

3. To conclude or infer, as from evidence: *I gather a decision has not been reached.*

4. To summon up; muster: *gathered up his courage.*

5.

a. To accumulate (something) gradually; amass: *The top of the bookshelf gathered dust.*

b. To attract or be the center of attraction for: *The jugglers gathered a large crowd.*

6. To gain by a process of gradual increase: *gather speed.*

7. To pick up or collect (molten glass) using a tool in glassblowing.

v. intr.

1. To come together in a group; assemble: *A crowd gathered in the lobby.*

2. To accumulate: *Dark clouds are gathering.*

3. To grow or increase by degrees: *The truck's speed gathered on the downslope.*

4. To come to a head, as a boil; fester.

5. To forage for wild foodstuffs.

n.

1. The act or an instance of gathering.

2. Something gathered, especially:

a. A small fold or pucker made by gathering cloth.

b. A mass of molten glass collected on the end of a blowpipe or other glassblowing tool.

[Middle English *getheren*, *gaderen*, from Old English *gadrian*; see **ghedh-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

gath er·er n.

Synonyms: [gather](#), [collect](#)¹, [assemble](#), [congregate](#), [accumulate](#), [amass](#)

These verbs mean to bring or come together in a group or aggregate. *Gather* is the most widely applicable: *I gathered sticks for the fire. Clouds gathered in the evening sky.* *Collect* frequently refers to the careful selection of like or related things that become part of an organized whole: *She collects stamps as a hobby.* In other contexts, *collect* suggests the gradual process by which similar items or materials come together to form a distinct mass: *Dust collected on the shelves. Leaves collected in the gutter.* *Assemble* implies a definite and usually close relationship. With respect to persons, the term suggests convening out of common interest or purpose: *Assembling an able staff was more difficult than expected. The reporters assembled for the press conference.* With respect to things, *assemble* implies gathering and fitting together components: *The curator is assembling an interesting exhibit of Stone Age artifacts.* *Congregate* refers chiefly to the coming together of a large number of persons or animals: *The students congregated*

after class to compare notes. *Accumulate* applies to the increase of like or related things over an extended period: *They accumulated enough capital to invest. Old newspapers accumulated in the basement.* *Amass* refers to the collection or accumulation of things, often valuable things, to form an imposing quantity: *Their families had amassed great fortunes. Rocks had amassed at the bottom of the glacier.* See Also Synonyms at [reap](#).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

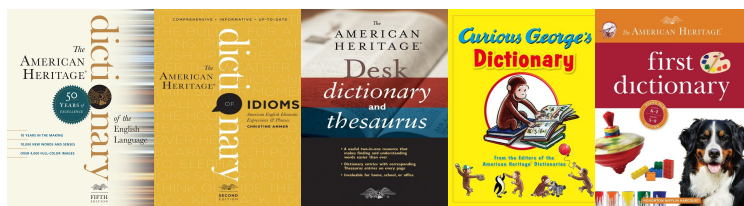
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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