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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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guess  (gěs)

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v. guessed, guess·ing, guess·es

v.tr.

1.

a. To predict (a result or an event) without sufficient information.

b. To assume, presume, or assert (a fact) without sufficient information.

2. To form a correct estimate or conjecture of: *guessed the answer.*

3. To suppose; think: *I guess he was wrong.*

v.intr.

1. To make an estimate or conjecture: *We could only guess at her motives.*

2. To estimate or conjecture correctly.

n.

1. An act or instance of guessing.

2. A conjecture arrived at by guessing.

[Middle English *gessen*, probably of Scandinavian origin; see **ghend-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

guess *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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