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dictionary

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English
Language



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prize ¹ 🗨️ (prīz)

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- n.*
1. **a.** Something offered or won as an award for superiority or victory, as in a contest or competition.
b. Something offered or won in a lottery or similar game of chance.
 2. Something worth striving for; a highly desirable possession.
- adj.*
1. Offered or given as a prize: *a prize cup*.
 2. Given a prize, or likely to win a prize: *a prize cow*.
 3. Worthy of a prize; first-class: *our prize azaleas*.
- tr.v. prized, priz-ing, priz-es*
1. To value highly; esteem or treasure. See Synonyms at [appreciate](#).
 2. To estimate the worth of; evaluate.

[Alteration of Middle English *pris*, value, price, reward; see [PRICE](#).]

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prize ² 🗨️ (prīz)

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- n.*
- Something seized by force or taken as booty, especially an enemy ship and its cargo captured at sea during wartime.

[Alteration of Middle English *prise*, from Old French, from feminine past participle of *prendre*, from Latin *prehendere*, *prēndere*, to seize; see **ghend-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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prize ³ also **prise** 🗨️ (prīz)

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- tr.v. prized, priz-ing, priz-es* also *prised* or *pris-ing* or *pris-es*
- To move or force with a lever; pry: *prized open the antique chest*.
- n.*
- Chiefly Southern US Something used as a lever or for prying.

[From Middle English *prise*, instrument for prying, probably from *prise*, the taking of something; see [PRIZE](#)².]

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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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