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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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pry¹  (prī)

Share:

intr.v. **pried** (prīd), **pry-ing**, **pries** (prīz)

To look or inquire closely, curiously, or impertinently: *was always prying into the affairs of others.*

[Middle English *prien*.]

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pry²  (prī)

Share:

tr.v. **pried** (prīd), **pry-ing**, **pries** (prīz)

1. To raise, move, or force open with a lever.

2. To obtain with effort or difficulty: *pried a confession out of the suspect.*

n. pl. **pries** (prīz)

Something, such as a crowbar, that is used to apply leverage.

[Alteration of [PRIZE](#)³.]

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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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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