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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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re·prieve  (rĭ-prēv)

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v. re·prieved, re·prieving, re·prieves

v.tr.

1.
 - a. To prevent or suspend the punishment of (someone, especially a convicted criminal).
 - b. To prevent or suspend (a punishment).
2. To bring relief to: *The rain reprieved us from the noise of the construction machinery.*

v.intr.

To prevent the imposition of a scheduled or expected punishment, especially temporarily.

n.

1.
 - a. The prevention or suspension of a scheduled or expected punishment.
 - b. A court order or other official notification preventing or suspending a scheduled or expected punishment.
2. Temporary relief, as from danger or pain.

[Alteration (influenced by Middle English *repreven*, to contradict, variant of *reproven*, to rebuke) of Middle English *reprien*, probably from Old French *repris*, past participle of *reprendre*, to take back, from Latin *reprehendere*, *reprēdere*, to hold back; see [REPREHEND](#).]

re·prieve a·ble *adj.*

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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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