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press¹  (prěs)

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v. **pressed**, **press·ing**, **press·es**

v.tr.

1.

a. To exert steady weight or force against: *an indentation where the rock pressed the ground.*

b. To move by applying pressure: *press a piano key; press one's face into a pillow.*

c. To squeeze or clasp in fondness or concern: *pressed her hand before leaving.*

2.

a. To squeeze the juice or other contents from: *press lemons.*

b. To extract (juice, for example) by squeezing or compressing.

3.

a. To reshape or make compact by applying steady force; compress: *pressed the clay in a mold.*

b. To iron (clothing, for example).

c. To make (a sound recording), originally by pressing (a vinyl phonograph record) under pressure in a mold.

4.

a. To bear down on or attack: *The army pressed the rebels for months.*

b. To carry on or advance vigorously (an attack, for instance).

c. To place in trying or distressing circumstances: *Are you pressed for money?*

5.

a. To insist upon or put forward insistently: *press a claim; press an argument.*

b. To try to influence or persuade, as by insistent arguments; pressure or entreat: *He pressed her for a reply.*

c. To insist that someone accept (something). Often used with *on* or *upon*: *was given to pressing peculiar gifts upon his nieces.*

6. *Sports* To lift (a weight) to a position above the head without moving the legs.

v.intr.

1. To exert force or pressure: *felt the backpack pressing on her shoulders.*

2. To be worrisome or depressing; weigh heavily: *Guilt pressed upon his conscience.*

3.

a. To advance eagerly; move forward urgently: *We pressed through the crowd to get to the bus.*

b. To assemble closely and in large numbers; crowd: *Fans pressed around the movie star.*

4. To continue a course of action, especially in spite of difficulties: *decided to press ahead with the performance even with a sore throat.*

5. To require haste or urgent action: *matters that have not stopped pressing.*

6. To employ urgent persuasion or entreaty: *The supervisor has been pressing to get us to finish the project sooner.*

7. To iron clothes or other material.

8. *Sports* To raise or lift a weight in a press.

9. *Basketball* To employ a press.

10. *Sports* In golf, to try to hit long or risky shots, typically with unsuccessful results.

n.

1. Any of various machines or devices that apply pressure: *a cider press.*

2. A printing press.

3.

a. A place or establishment where matter is printed: *sent the book's files to the press.*

b. A publishing company: *Which press has acquired that manuscript?*

4.

- a. The communications media considered as a whole, especially the agencies that collect, publish, transmit, or broadcast news and other information to the public: *freedom of the press*; *got a job writing for the press*.
 - b. News or other information disseminated to the public in printed, broadcast, or electronic form: *kept the scandal out of the press*.
 - c. The people involved in the media, as news reporters and broadcasters: *took questions from the press after her speech*.
 - d. The kind or extent of coverage a person or event receives in the media: "*Like the pool hall and the tattoo parlor, the motorcycle usually gets a bad press*" (R.Z. Sheppard).
- 5.
- a. A large gathering; a crowd: *lost our friend in the press of people*.
 - b. The act of gathering in large numbers or of pushing forward: *The press of the crowd broke the gates*.
6. An act of pressing down or applying pressure: *with the press of a button*.
7. The haste or urgency of business or matters: *the press of the day's events*.
8. The set of proper creases in a garment or fabric, formed by ironing.
9. *Chiefly Scots and Irish* An upright closet or case used for storing clothing, books, or other articles.
10. *Sports* A lift in weightlifting in which the weight is raised to shoulder level and then steadily pushed straight overhead without movement of the legs.
11. *Basketball* An aggressive defense tactic in which players guard opponents closely, often over the entire court.

Idioms:

go to press

To be submitted for printing.

in press

Submitted for printing; in the process of being printed.

press charges

To bring a formal accusation of criminal wrongdoing against someone.

pressed for time

In a hurry; under time pressure.

press the flesh *Informal*

To shake hands and mingle with many people, especially while campaigning for public office.

[Middle English *pressen*, from Old French *presser*, from Latin *pressāre*, frequentative of *premere*, to press; see **per**-⁴ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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press ²  (prĕs)

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tr.v. **pressed**, **press·ing**, **press·es**

1. To force into service in the army or navy; impress.

2.

a. To take arbitrarily or by force, especially for public use.

b. To use in a manner different from the usual or intended, especially in an emergency.

n.

1. Conscription or impressment into service, especially into the army or navy.

2. *Obsolete* An official warrant for impressing men into military service.

[Alteration of obsolete *prest*, to hire for military service by advance payment, from Middle English, enlistment money, loan, from Old French, from *prester*, to lend, from Medieval Latin *praestāre*, from Latin, to furnish, from *praestō*, present, at hand; see **ghes**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

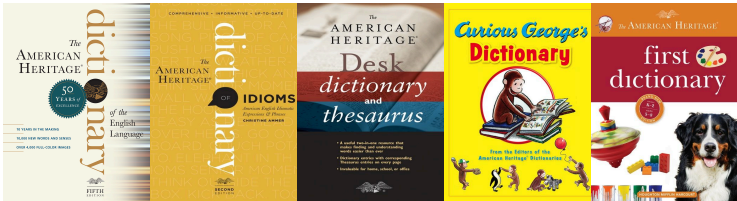
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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