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fuse¹ also **fuze** 🔊 (fy z)

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n.

1. A cord of readily combustible material that is lighted at one end to carry a flame along its length to detonate an explosive at the other end.
 2. often **fuze** A mechanical or electrical mechanism used to detonate an explosive charge or device such as a bomb or grenade: "*A mechanical ... switch is used to initiate the fuzes*" (*International Defense Review*).
- tr.v.* **fused**, **fus-ing**, **fus-es** also **fuzed** or **fuz-ing** or **fuz-es**
To equip with a mechanical or electrical fuse.

[From Italian *fuso*, spindle (originally from its shape), from Latin *fūsus*.]

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fuse² 🔊 (fy z)

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v. **fused**, **fus-ing**, **fus-es**

v.tr.

1.

- a. To join (different pieces or elements) together physically, as by melting or heating: *bits of glass fused in a kiln; atomic nuclei that are fused together inside the stars.*
 - b. To blend or combine together: "*Edison's invention strategy effectively fused research and development in a seamless process*" (*Seth Shulman*).
2. To liquefy or reduce to a plastic state by heating; melt.

v.intr.

1.

- a. To become physically joined together, as by melting.
 - b. To be combined or blended together: "*There was no separation between joy and sorrow: they fused into one*" (*Henry Miller*). See Synonyms at [mix](#).
2. To become liquefied from heat.

n.

A safety device that protects an electric circuit from excessive current, consisting of or containing a metal element that melts when current exceeds a specific amperage, thereby opening the circuit.

[Latin *fundere*, *fūs-*, to melt; see **gheu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

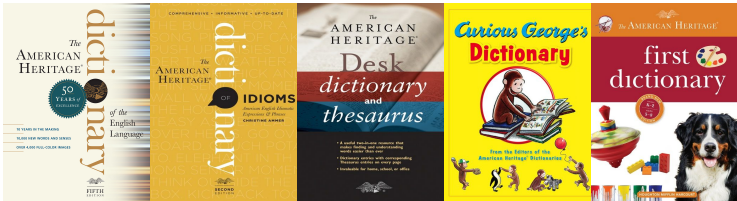
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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