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graze¹  (grāz)

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v. grazed, graz·ing, graz·es

v.intr.

1. To feed on growing grasses and herbage.

2. *Informal*

a. To eat a variety of appetizers as a full meal.

b. To eat snacks throughout the day in place of full meals.

v.tr.

1. To feed on (herbage) in a field or on pastureland.

2. To feed on the herbage of (a piece of land).

3. To afford herbage for the feeding of: *This field will graze 30 head of cattle.*

4. To put (livestock) out to feed.

5. To tend (feeding livestock) in a pasture.

[Middle English *grasen*, from Old English *grasian*, from *græs*, grass; see **ghrē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

graze a·ble, **graz** a·ble *adj.*

graz er *n.*

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graze²  (grāz)

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v. grazed, graz·ing, graz·es

v.tr.

1. To touch lightly in passing; brush. See Synonyms at [brush](#)¹.

2. To scrape or scratch slightly; abrade.

v.intr.

To scrape or touch something lightly in passing.

n.

1. The act of brushing or scraping along a surface.

2. A minor scratch or abrasion.

[Perhaps from [GRAZE](#)¹.]

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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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