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Language



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grave¹  (grāv)

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n.

1.

a. An excavation for the interment of a corpse.

b. A place of burial.

2. Death or extinction: *faced the grave with calm resignation.*

[Middle English, from Old English *græf*; see **ghrebh-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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grave²  (grāv)

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adj. **grav·er**, **grav·est**

1. Requiring serious thought; momentous: *a grave decision in a time of crisis.*

2. Fraught with danger or harm: *a grave wound.*

3. Dignified and somber in conduct or character: *a grave procession.* See Synonyms at [serious](#).

4. Somber or dark in hue.

5. (*also* grāv) *Linguistics*

a. Written with or modified by the mark (`), as the è in *Sèvres*.

b. Of or referring to a phonetic feature that distinguishes sounds produced at the periphery of the vocal tract, as in labial and velar consonants and back vowels.

n. (*also* grāv)

See [grave accent](#).

[French, from Old French, from Latin *gravis*; see **g^werə-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

grave **ly** *adv.*

grave **ness** *n.*

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grave³  (grāv)

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tr.v. **graved**, **grav·en** (grā vən) or **graved**, **grav·ing**, **graves**

1. To sculpt or carve; engrave.

2. To stamp or impress deeply; fix permanently.

[Middle English *graven*, from Old English *grafan*; see **ghrebh-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

grave ⁴  (grāv)

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tr.v. **graved**, **grav·ing**, **graves**

To clean and coat (the bottom of a wooden ship) with pitch.

[Middle English *graven*.]

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

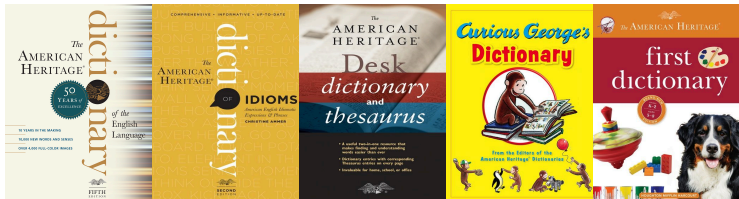
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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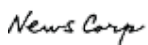


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