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dictionary

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Language



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trans·gress  (trăns-grēs , trānz-)

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v. trans·gressed, trans·gress·ing, trans·gress·es

v.tr.

1. To go beyond or over (a limit or boundary); exceed or overstep: *"to make sure that her characters didn't transgress the parameters of ordinariness" (Ron Rosenbaum).*
2. To act in violation of (the law, for example).

v.intr.

1. To commit an offense by violating a law, principle, or duty.
2. To spread over land, especially over the land along a subsiding shoreline. Used of the sea.

[Middle English *transgressen*, from Old French *transgresser*, from Latin *trānsgrēdī*, *trānsgress-*, to step across : *trāns-*, *trans-* + *gradī*, to go; see **ghredh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

trans·gress i·ble *adj.*

trans·gres sor *n.*

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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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