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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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grade  (grād)

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n.

1. A stage or degree in a process.
2. A position in a scale of size, quality, or intensity: *a poor grade of lumber.*
3. An accepted level or standard.
4. A set of persons or things all falling in the same specified limits; a class.
5.
 - a. A level of academic development in an elementary, middle, or secondary school: *learned fractions in the fourth grade.*
 - b. A group of students at such a level: *The third grade has recess at 10:30.*
 - c. **grades** Elementary school.
6. A number, letter, or symbol indicating a student's level of accomplishment: *a passing grade in history.*
7. A military, naval, or civil service rank.
8. The degree of inclination of a slope, road, or other surface: *the steep grade of the mountain road.*
9. A slope or gradual inclination, especially of a road or railroad track: *slowed the truck when he approached the grade.*
10. The level at which the ground surface meets the foundation of a building.
11. A domestic animal produced by crossbreeding one of purebred stock with one of ordinary stock.
12. *Linguistics* A degree of ablaut.

v. **grad·ed, grad·ing, grades**

v.tr.

1. To arrange in grades; sort or classify: *How is motor oil graded?*
2.
 - a. To determine the quality of (academic work, for example); evaluate: *graded the book reports.*
 - b. To give a grade to (a student, for example).
3. To level or smooth to a desired or horizontal gradient: *bulldozers graded the road.*
4. To gradate.
5. To improve the quality of (livestock) by crossbreeding with purebred stock.

v.intr.

To change or progress gradually: *piles of gravel that grade from coarse to fine.*

[French, from Latin *gradus*; see **ghredh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

grad **a·ble** *adj.*

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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:

[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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