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grad·u·al  (grăj -əl)

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adj.

Occurring or developing slowly or by small increments: *gradual erosion*; *a gradual slope*.

n.

Roman Catholic Church

1. The liturgical book containing the chants for the Mass.
2. A biblical text sung between the Epistle and the Gospel of the Mass.

[Middle English, having steps, from Medieval Latin *graduālis*, from Latin *gradus*, step; see [GRADE](#). N., Middle English, from Medieval Latin *graduāle*, the part of the service sung by the choir from the altar steps, gradual, from neuter sing. of *graduālis*.]

grad u·al·ly *adv.*

grad u·al·ness *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

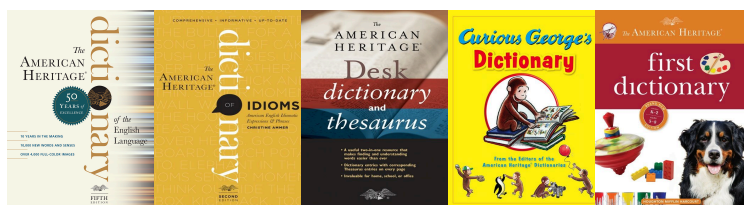
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