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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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chris·ten  (krɪs ən)

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tr.v. **chris·tened**, **chris·ten·ing**, **chris·tens**

1.

a. To baptize into a Christian church.

b. To give a name to at baptism.

2.

a. To name: *christened the kitten "Snowball."*

b. To name and dedicate ceremonially: *christen a ship.*

3. To use for the first time: *christened the new car by going for a drive.*

[Middle English *cristnen*, from Old English *cristnian*, from *cristen*, Christian; see [CHRISTIAN](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

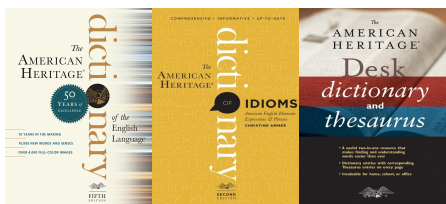
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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