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grind  (grīnd)

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v. **ground**(ground), **grind·ing**, **grinds**

v. *tr.*

1.

a. To reduce to small bits or crush to a fine powder: *grind wheat into flour; grind coffee beans.*

b. To shape, sharpen, or refine with friction: *grind scissors to a fine edge; grind lenses for eyeglasses.*

2. To rub (two surfaces) together harshly; gnash: *grind one's teeth.*

3. To bear down on harshly; crush: *The team's spirit was ground down by harsh losses.*

4. To oppress or weaken gradually or persistently: “*Laws grind the poor, and rich men rule the law*” (Oliver Goldsmith).

5. To operate by turning a crank: *ground a hurdy-gurdy.*

6. To instill or teach by persistent repetition: *ground the truth into their heads.*

v. *intr.*

1. To perform the operation of grinding something.

2. To become crushed, pulverized, or powdered by friction: *Those coffee beans ground easily.*

3.

a. To move with noisy friction; grate: *a train grinding along rusty rails.*

b. *past tense and past participle* **grind·ed**(grīn dīd) To ride a skateboard, a snowboard, or skis over a grind rail or narrow surface, often with the board or skis at right angles to the direction of movement.

4. *Informal* To devote oneself to study or work: *grinding for a test; grinding away at housework.*

5. *past tense and past participle* **grind·ed**(grīn dīd) *Slang* To rotate the pelvis erotically, as while dancing or performing a striptease.

n.

1. The act of grinding.

2. A crunching or grinding noise.

3.

a. A specific grade or degree of pulverization, as of coffee beans: *drip grind.*

b. Bits of ground coffee; grounds.

4. *Informal* A laborious task, routine, or study: *the daily grind.*

5. *Informal* A student who works or studies excessively.

6. *Slang* An erotic rotation of the pelvis.

Phrasal Verb:

grind out

To produce mechanically or without inspiration: *a hack writer who grinds out one potboiler after another.*

Idiom:

grind it out

To make a persistent effort in doing something that is difficult; work at something persistently.

[Middle English *grinden*, from Old English *grindan*; see **ghrendh-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

grind **ing·ly** *adv.*

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

Semitic Roots

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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