



The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars, creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language. Annual surveys have gauged the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions.

[The Panelists](#)



AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY APP

The new American Heritage Dictionary app is now available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY BLOG

The articles in our [blog](#) examine new words, revised definitions, interesting images from the fifth edition, discussions of usage, and more.

THE 100 WORDS®

See word lists from the best-selling 100 Words Series!

[Find out more!](#)



INTERESTED IN DICTIONARIES?

Check out the Dictionary Society of North America at <http://www.dictionariesociety.com>

clove¹  (klōv)

Share: [Tweet](#)

n.

1. An evergreen tree (*Syzygium aromaticum*) native to the Moluccas and widely cultivated as a source of oil and for its aromatic dried flower buds.
2. A flower bud of this plant, used whole or ground as a spice.

[Middle English, from Old French *clou* (*de girofle*), nail (of the clove tree), from Latin *clāvus*, nail.]

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

clove²  (klōv)

Share: [Tweet](#)

n.

One of the small sections of a separable bulb, as that of garlic.

[Middle English, from Old English *clufu*; see **gleubh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

clove³  (klōv)

Share: [Tweet](#)

v.

1. A past tense of [cleave](#)¹.
2. *Archaic* A past participle of **cleave**¹.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

clove⁴  (klōv)

Share: [Tweet](#)

v.

Archaic

A past tense of [cleave](#)².

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

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](#).

American Heritage Dictionary Products



<u>The</u>	<u>The</u>	<u>The</u>
<u>American</u>	<u>American</u>	<u>American</u>
<u>Heritage</u>	<u>Heritage</u>	<u>Heritage</u>
<u>Dictionary,</u>	<u>Dictionary.</u>	<u>Roget's</u>
5th Edition	of Idioms	Thesaurus

[Curious George's Dictionary](#) [The American Heritage Children's Dictionary](#)

- CONTACT US
 - Customer Service
 - Make Me An Author
 - Ebooks Help with Glose Reader
- ABOUT US
- Company Profile
 - Leadership Team
 - Corporate Social Responsibility
 - HarperCollins Careers
 - HarperCollins Imprints
 - HarperGreen
 - Social Media Directory
 - Accessibility
- FOR READERS
- Browse Reading Guides
- FOR AUTHORS
- Submit a Manuscript
 - Report Piracy
 - Agent Portal
- MEDIA
- Publicity Contacts
 - Press Room
- SERVICES
- HarperCollins Speakers Bureau
 - Library Services
 - Academic Services
 - Desk & Exam Copies
 - Review Copies
 - OpenBook API
 - Marketing Partnerships
- COVID-19 RESOURCES &
PERMISSIONS
- Permissions for Adult Online Readings
 - Permissions for Kids Online Readings
- SALES & RIGHTS
- Booksellers & Retailer Ordering
 - HarperCollins Catalogs
 - Permissions
 - Subsidiary Rights
- Media Rights and Content Development
- GLOSE APP
- iPhone
 - Android
 -
 -
 -
- GLOBAL DIVISIONS
- HarperCollins US
 - HarperCollins Canada
 - HarperCollins Christian
 - HarperCollins Australia
 - HarperCollins India
 - HarperCollins UK
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -

*This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.