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cog·ni·zance  (kŏg nĭ-zəns)

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- n.*
1. Conscious knowledge or recognition; awareness.
 2. The range of what one can know or understand.
 3. Observance; notice: *We will take cognizance of your objections at the proper time.*
 4. *Law* Acknowledgment, recognition, or jurisdiction; the assumption of jurisdiction in a case.
 5. *Heraldry* A crest or badge worn to distinguish the bearer.

[Middle English *conissaunce*, from Old French *conoissance*, from *connoistre*, to know, from Latin *cognōscere*, to learn; see [COGNITION](#).]

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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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