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note  (nōt)

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n.

1.

a. A brief record, especially one written down to aid the memory: *took notes on the lecture.*

b. A comment or explanation, as on a passage in a text: *The allusion is explained in the notes at the end of the chapter.*

2.

a. A brief informal letter: *sent a note to the child's teacher.* See Synonyms at [letter](#).

b. A formal written diplomatic or official communication.

3.

a. A piece of paper currency.

b. A debt security, usually with a maturity of ten years or less.

c. A promissory note.

4. *Music*

a. A tone of definite pitch.

b. A symbol for such a tone, indicating pitch by its position on the staff and duration by its shape.

c. A key of an instrument, such as a piano.

5. The characteristic vocal sound made by a songbird or other animal: *the clear note of a cardinal.*

6. The sign of a particular quality or emotion: *a note of despair in his remarks; a note of gaiety in her manner.*

7. A distinctive component of a complex flavor or aroma: *a full-bodied wine with notes of cherry and musk.*

8. Importance; consequence: *Nothing of note happened.*

9. Notice; observation: *quietly took note of the scene.*

10. *Obsolete* A song, melody, or tune.

tr.v. **not·ed, not·ing, notes**

1. To observe carefully; notice: *Note the difference between these two plants.* See Synonyms at [see](#)¹.

2. To make a note of; write down: *noted the time of each arrival.*

3. To show; indicate: *a reporter careful to note sources of information.*

4. To make mention of; remark: *noted the lateness of his arrival.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *nota*, annotation; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

not *er n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

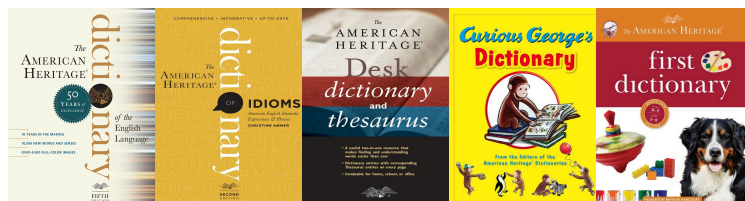
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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