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dictionary

of the
English
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kill ¹  (kɪl)

Share:

v. **killed, kill·ing, kills**

v.tr.

1.

a. To put to death: *Who killed Julius Caesar?*

b. To deprive of life: *Smallpox killed millions of people in the 1900s.*

2. To put an end to; extinguish: *The rain killed our plans for a picnic.*

3.

a. To destroy a vitally essential quality in: *Too much garlic killed the taste of the meat.*

b. To cause to cease operating; turn off: *killed the motor.*

c. To tire out completely; exhaust: *"The trip to work, and the boredom and nervousness of jobs, kills men" (Jimmy Breslin).*

4. To pass (time) in aimless activity: *killed a few hours before the flight by sightseeing.*

5. To consume entirely; finish off: *kill a bottle of brandy.*

6. *Sports* To prevent the opposing team from scoring on a power play during (a penalty), as in ice hockey.

7. To cause extreme pain or discomfort to: *My shoes are killing me.*

8. To mark for deletion; rule out: *killed the story.*

9. To thwart passage of; veto: *kill a congressional bill.*

10. *Informal* To overwhelm with hilarity, pleasure, or admiration: *The outstanding finale killed the audience.*

11. *Sports*

a. To hit (a ball) with great force.

b. To hit (a ball) with such force as to make a return impossible, as in volleyball.

v.intr.

1. To cause death or extinction; be fatal.

2. *Informal* To make such a strong impression as to overcome: *dress to kill.*

3. *Informal* To be very painful or uncomfortable.

n.

1. The act of killing.

2.

a. An animal killed, especially in hunting.

b. A person killed or to be killed: *"Infantrymen ... had seen too many kills suddenly get up and run away or shoot at them as they approached" (Nelson DeMille).*

c. An event in which large numbers of individuals are killed: *a fish kill.*

d. The act of attacking and destroying an enemy aircraft, vessel, or missile.

3. *Sports* In games such as volleyball and tennis, a shot that is so forcefully hit that it cannot be returned.

Phrasal Verb:

kill off

To destroy in large numbers, often to the point of extinction.

Idiom:

in at/on the kill

Present at the moment of triumph.

[Middle English *killen*, perhaps from Old English **cyllan*; see **g^wela-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

kill ²  (kĭl)

Share: [Post](#)

n.
New York State
See [creek](#). See Note at [run](#).

[Dutch *kil*, from Middle Dutch *kille*.]

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

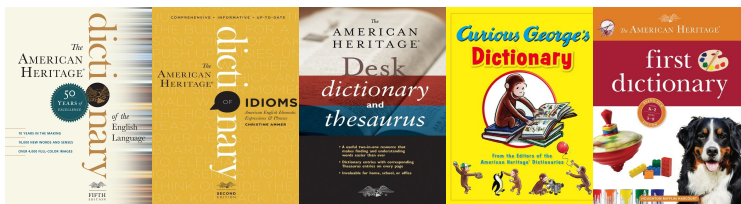
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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