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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.

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grieve  (grēv)

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v. grieved, griev-ing, grieves

v.tr.

1. To cause to be sorrowful; distress: *It grieves me to see you in such pain.*
2. To mourn or sorrow for: *We grieved the death of our pastor.*
3. *Usage Problem* To file an official or formal grievance on account of (an actual or perceived injustice).
4. *Archaic* To hurt or harm.

v.intr.

To experience or express grief.

[Middle English *greven*, from Old French *grever*, to harm, from Latin *gravāre*, to burden, from *gravis*, heavy; see **g^wera-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

griev **er** *n.*

Synonyms: **grieve, lament, mourn, sorrow**

These verbs mean to feel, show, or express grief, sadness, or regret: *grieved over her father's death; lamenting about the decline in academic standards; mourns for lost hopes; sorrowed for a lost friend.*

Antonym: [rejoice](#)

Usage Note: Traditionally, *grieve* as a transitive verb has meant "to cause to be sorrowful; distress," with its direct object being the person who is sorrowful or distressed, as in *It grieves me to see so many homeless in the city*. Later, there developed a sense of *grieve* in which the direct object is that which causes sorrow or distress, as in *She took a week off to attend her father's funeral and grieve his loss*. In our 2013 survey, 79 percent of the Usage Panel approved of this usage in this sentence, up from 62 percent in our 1996 survey. More recently, *grieve* has also come to be used to mean "to file an official or formal grievance." This extended sense does not find favor with the Usage Panel. In 2013, only 21 percent found its use in this passage acceptable: *Saradnik was asked to resign as coach following complaints by several parents. Because Saradnik has grieved his dismissal, school officials aren't commenting*. This usage is relatively uncommon outside of the sphere of labor and management disputes.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

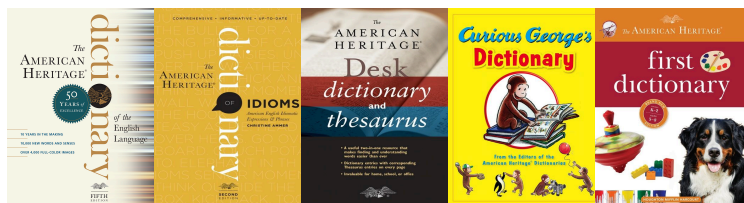
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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