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fend  (fěnd)

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v. **fend·ed**, **fend·ing**, **fends**

v.*tr.*

1. To ward off. Often used with *off*: *fend off an attack*.

2. *Archaic* To defend.

v.*intr.*

1. To make an effort to resist: *fend against the cold*.

2. To attempt to manage without assistance: *had to fend for ourselves until we were rescued*.

[Middle English *fenden*, short for *defenden*, to defend; see [DEFEND](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

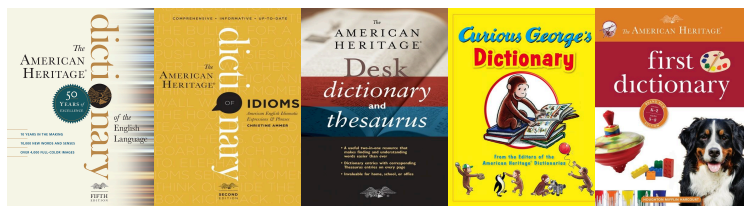
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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