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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**bonze** 🗨️ (bŏnz)

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*n.*

A Buddhist monk, especially of China, Japan, or nearby countries.

[French, from Portuguese *bonzo*, from Japanese *bonsō* : *bon*, ordinary (from Early Middle Chinese *buam*) + *sō*, monk (from Middle Chinese *sang*, from Sanskrit *saṃghaḥ*, sangha; see [SANGHA](#)).]

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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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