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n.

1. An enclosure in which energy in a nonthermal form is converted to heat, especially such an enclosure in which heat is generated by the combustion of a suitable fuel.
2. An intensely hot place: *the furnace of the sun; an attic room that is a furnace in the summer.*
3. A severe test or trial: *endured the furnace of his friends' blame after the accident.*

[Middle English *fourneyse*, from Old French *fornaise*, variant of earlier *fornais*, from Latin *fornāx*, *fornāc*-, oven; see **g^wher-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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