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phrase  (frāz)

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n.

1. A sequence of words that have meaning, especially when forming part of a sentence.
2.
 - a. A characteristic way or mode of expression: *an apt turn of phrase.*
 - b. A brief, apt, and cogent expression: *the phrase "out of the frying pan and into the fire."*
3. *Music* A short passage or segment, often consisting of four measures or forming part of a larger unit.
4. A series of dance movements forming a unit in a choreographic pattern.

v. **phrased**, **phras·ing**, **phras·es**

v.tr.

1. To express orally or in writing: *The speaker phrased several opinions.*

2. *Music*

- a. To divide (a passage) into phrases.
- b. To combine (notes) in a phrase.

v.intr.

1. To make or express phrases.
2. *Music* To perform a passage with the correct phrasing.

[Latin *phrasis*, diction, from Greek, speech, diction, phrase, from *phrazein*, to point out, show; see **g^whren-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

phas **al** *adj.*

phas **al·ly** *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

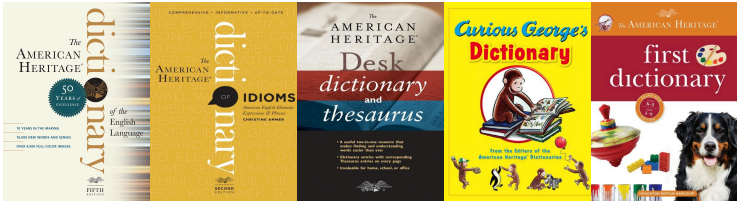
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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