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ca·dence  (kād ns)

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n. pl. ca·denc·es

1. Balanced, rhythmic flow, as of poetry or oratory.

2.

a. The measure or beat of movement, as in dancing or marching.

b. A rhythmic chant, often in call-and-response form, used by soldiers to keep in step when marching or running.

3.

a. A falling inflection of the voice, as at the end of a sentence.

b. General inflection or modulation of the voice.

4. *Music* A progression of chords moving to a harmonic close, point of rest, or sense of resolution.

[Middle English, from Old French **cadence*, from Old Italian *cadenza*, from Vulgar Latin **cadentia*, a falling, from Latin *cadēns*, *cadent-*, present participle of *cadere*, to fall; see **kad-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

ca denced *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

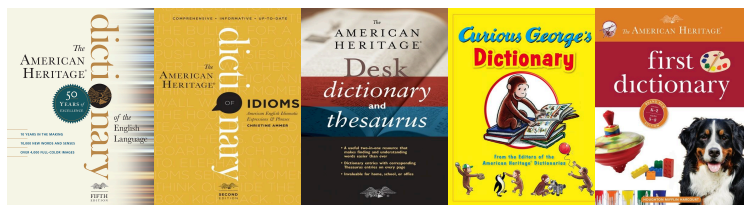
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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