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oc·ca·sion  (ə-kā zhən)

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n.

1. An event or happening, or the time of an event or happening: *On several occasions, we saw him riding a motorcycle.*
2. A significant event, especially a large or important social gathering: *The reception proved to be quite the occasion.*
3. A favorable or appropriate time or juncture: *saw the layoff as an occasion to change careers.* See Synonyms at [opportunity](#).
4.
 - a. A cause of or reason for something: *a trade disagreement that furnished the occasion for war.* See Synonyms at [cause](#).
 - b. A need created by a particular circumstance: *"He must buy what he has little occasion for" (Laurence Sterne).*
5. **occasions** *Archaic* Personal requirements or necessities.

tr.v. **oc·ca·sioned**, **oc·ca·sion·ing**, **oc·ca·sions**

To provide occasion for; cause: *"The broadcast and its immediate aftermath occasioned a cascade of media commentary" (Lewis Sorley).*

Idioms:

on occasion

From time to time; now and then.

rise to the occasion

To find the ability to deal with an unexpected challenge.

take the occasion

To make use of the opportunity (to do something).

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *occāsiō*, *occāsiōn-*, from *occāsus*, past participle of *occidere*, to fall : *ob-*, down; see [ob-](#) + *cadere*, to fall; see **kad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

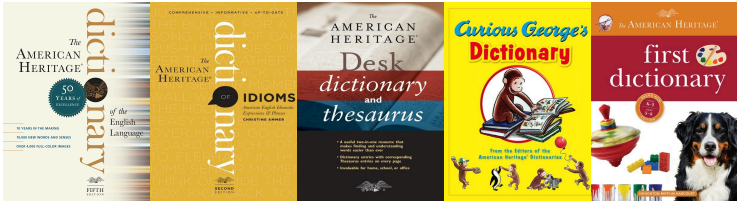
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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