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re·cid·i·vism  (rĭ-sĭd ə-vĭz'əm)

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n.
The repeating of or returning to criminal behavior by the same offender or type of offender.

[From *recidivist*, one who recidivates, from French *récidiviste*, from *récidiver*, to relapse, from Medieval Latin *recidīvāre*, from Latin *recidīvus*, falling back, from *recidere*, to fall back : *re-*, *re-* + *cadere*, to fall; see **kad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

re·cid i·vist *n.*

re·cid'i-vis tic, **re·cid i·vous** *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:

[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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