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cae·su·ra also **ce·su·ra** (sĭ-zh r ə, -z r ə)

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n. pl. **cae·su·ras** or **cae·su·rae** (-zh r ē, -z r ē) also **ce·su·ras** or **ce·su·rae**

1. A pause in a line of verse dictated by sense or natural speech rhythm rather than by metrics.
2. A pause or interruption, as in conversation: *After another weighty caesura the senator resumed speaking.*
3. In Latin and Greek prosody, a break in a line caused by the ending of a word within a foot, especially when this coincides with a sense division.
4. *Music* A pause or breathing at a point of rhythmic division in a melody.

[Latin *caesūra*, a cutting, from *caesus*, past participle of *caedere*, to cut off; see **kaə-id-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cae·su ral, **cae·su ric** *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

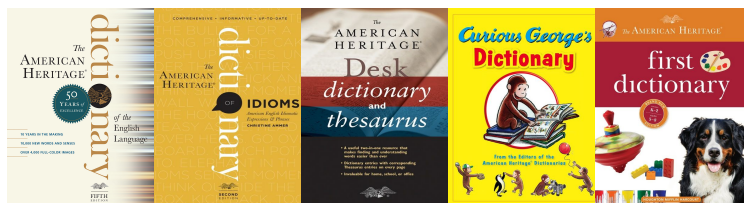
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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