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ce·ment  (sĭ-mĕnt)

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n.

1.

a. A building material made by grinding calcined limestone and clay to a fine powder, which can be mixed with water and poured to set as a solid mass or used as an ingredient in making mortar or concrete.

b. Portland cement.

c. Concrete.

2. A substance that hardens to act as an adhesive; glue.

3. Something that serves to bind or unite: “*Custom was in early days the cement of society*” (Walter Bagehot).

4. *Geology* A chemically precipitated substance that binds particles of clastic rocks.

5. *Dentistry* A substance used for filling cavities or anchoring crowns, inlays, or other restorations.

6. Variant of [cementum](#).

v. **ce·ment·ed**, **ce·ment·ing**, **ce·ments**

v. *tr.*

1. To join or cover with cement: *The workers cemented bricks in the wall.*

2. To make binding; establish or strengthen: *Signing the contract cemented the partners' agreement.*

v. *intr.*

To become cemented.

Idiom:

in cement

Firmly settled or determined; unalterable: *The administration's position on taxes was set in cement despite the unfavorable public response.*

[Middle English, from Old French *ciment*, from Latin *caementum*, rough-cut stone, rubble used in making concrete, from *caedere*, to cut; see **kaa-id-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

ce·ment *er n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

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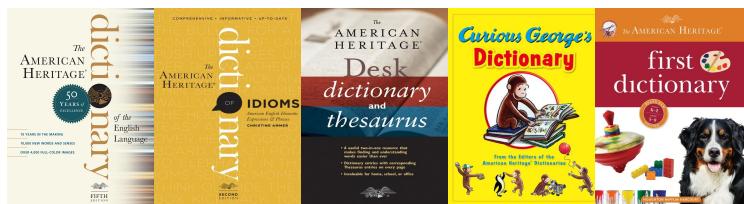
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available

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