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heath  (hēth)

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n.

1. Any of various usually low-growing shrubs of the genus *Erica* and other genera of the heath family, native to Europe and South Africa and having small evergreen leaves and small, colorful, urn-shaped flowers. Also called *heather*.
2. An extensive tract of uncultivated open land covered with herbage and low shrubs; a moor.

[Middle English, uncultivated land, from Old English *hæth*; see **kaito-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Heath  (hēth), Sir **Edward Richard George** 1916-2005.

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British politician who as prime minister (1970-1974) secured his country's entry into the Common Market (1973) and sought to offset high inflation by controlling wages, which led to a crippling miners' strike (1974).

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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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