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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**chant**  (chănt)

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*n.*

1.

a. A series of syllables or words that are sung on or intoned to the same note or a limited range of notes.

b. A canticle or prayer sung or intoned in this manner.

2. A monotonous rhythmic call or shout, as of a slogan: *the chant of the crowd at the rally.*

v. **chant·ed**, **chant·ing**, **chants**

*v.tr.*

1. To sing or intone to a chant: *chant a prayer.*

2. To celebrate in song: *chanting a hero's deeds.*

3. To say in the manner of a chant: *chanted defiant slogans.*

*v.intr.*

1. To sing, especially in the manner of a chant: *chanted while a friend jumped rope.*

2. To speak monotonously.

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[Probably from French, song, from Old French, from Latin *cantus*, from past participle of *canere*, to sing. V., from Middle English *chaunten*, to sing, from Old French *chanter*, from Latin *cantāre*, frequentative of *canere*; see **kan-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**chant** **ing·ly** *adv.*

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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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