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cap·ture  (kăp chər)

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tr.v. **cap·tured**, **cap·tur·ing**, **cap·tures**

1.

a. To take captive, as by force or craft; seize.

b. To gain possession or control of, as in a game or contest: *capture the queen in chess; captured the liberal vote.*

2.

a. To attract and hold: *tales of adventure that capture the imagination.*

b. *Astronomy* To attract and pull (a celestial body) into orbit by gravitation.

3. To succeed in preserving in lasting form: *capture a likeness in a painting.*

n.

1. The act of catching, taking, or winning, as by force or skill.

2. One that has been seized, caught, or won; a catch or prize.

3. *Astronomy* The process by which a massive body, such as a star or planet, draws and holds another body in gravitational orbit.

4. *Physics* The phenomenon in which an atom or a nucleus absorbs a subatomic particle, often with the subsequent emission of radiation.

[From French, capture, from Old French, from Latin *captūra*, a catching of animals, from *captus*, past participle of *capere*, to seize; see **kap-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

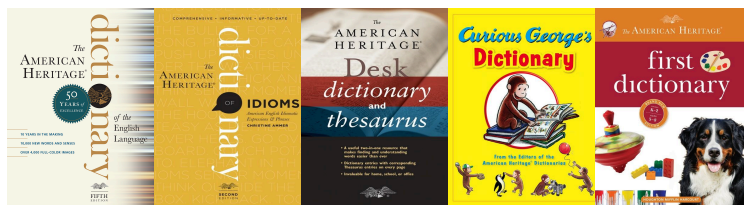
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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