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dictionary

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English
Language



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re·ceive  (rĭ-sēv)

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v. re·ceived, re·ceiv·ing, re·ceives

v.tr.

1.

a. To take or acquire (something given or offered); get or be given: *receive a present.*

b. To be the person who gets (something sent or transmitted): *receive an email.*

c. Sports To catch or get possession of (a pass or a kicked ball, for example).

d. To have (a title, for example) bestowed on oneself.

2.

a. To hear or see (information, for example): *receive bad news.*

b. To perceive or acquire mentally: *receive a bad impression.*

c. To regard with approval or disapproval: *ideas that were received well.*

d. To listen to and acknowledge formally and authoritatively: *The judge received their oath of allegiance.*

3. To take in and convert (radio waves, for example) into an electrical signal or into an audio or visual output.

4.

a. To experience or be subjected to; meet with: *receive sympathetic treatment.*

b. To have inflicted or imposed on oneself: *receive a penalty.*

5.

a. To bear the weight or force of; support: *The beams receive the full weight of the walls and roof.*

b. To take or intercept the impact of (a blow, for example).

c. To be exposed to or withstand: *The hillside cottage receives strong winds.*

6.

a. To take in, hold, or contain: *a tank that receives rainwater.*

b. To admit or accept: *receive new members.*

c. To greet, welcome, or be visited by: *receive guests.*

v.intr.

1. To acquire or get something; be a recipient.

2. To admit or welcome guests or visitors: *The couple are not receiving this winter.*

3. To partake of the Eucharist.

4. To convert incoming electromagnetic signals into sound, light, or electrical signals.

5. Sports To receive a pass or a kicked ball, for example.

[Middle English *receiven*, from Old North French *receivre*, from Latin *recipere* : *re-*, *re-* + *capere*, to take; see **kap-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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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:

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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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