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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**ca·det**  (kə-dět )

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*n.*

**1.**

**a.** A student at a military school or in a military program training to be an officer.

**b.** A student training to be a police officer.

**2.**

**a.** A younger son or brother.

**b.** A youngest son.

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[French, from dialectal *capdet*, captain, from Late Latin *capitellum*, diminutive of Latin *caput*, *capit*-, head; see **kaput-** in the [Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**ca·det ship** *n.*

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

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](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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