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stan·dard  (stăn dărd)

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adj.

1. Serving as or conforming to an established or accepted measurement or value: *a standard unit of volume.*
2. Widely recognized or employed as a model of authority or excellence: *a standard reference work.*
3. Acceptable but of less than top quality: *a standard grade of beef.*
4. Normal, familiar, or usual: *the standard excuse.*
5. Commonly used or supplied: *standard car equipment.*
6. *Linguistics* Conforming to models or norms of usage admired by educated speakers and writers: *standard pronunciation.*

n.

1.
 - a. An acknowledged measure of comparison for quantitative or qualitative value; a criterion. See Synonyms at [ideal](#).
 - b. An object that under specified conditions defines, represents, or records the magnitude of a unit.
2.
 - a. The commodity or commodities used to back a monetary system.
 - b. The set proportion by weight of gold or silver to alloy metal prescribed for use in coinage.
3.
 - a. A degree or level of requirement, excellence, or attainment: *Their quality of work exceeds the standards set for the field.*
 - b. Something, such as a practice or a product, that is widely recognized or employed, especially because of its excellence.
 - c. A set of specifications that are adopted within an industry to allow compatibility between products.
 - d. A requirement of moral conduct: *the standards of polite society.*
4. A flag, banner, or ensign, especially:
 - a. The ensign of a chief of state, nation, or city.
 - b. A long, tapering flag bearing heraldic devices distinctive of a person or corporation.
 - c. An emblem or flag of an army, raised on a pole to indicate the rallying point in battle.
 - d. The colors of a mounted or motorized military unit.
5. *Chiefly British* A grade level in elementary schools.
6. A pedestal, stand, or base.
7. The large upper petal of the flower of a pea or related plant. Also called *banner*, *vexillum*.
8. One of the narrow upright petals of an iris.
9. A shrub or small tree that through grafting or training has a single stem of limited height with a crown of leaves and flowers at its apex.
10. *Music* A composition that is continually used in repertoires: *a pianist who knew dozens of Broadway standards.*

[Middle English, flag, banner, standard measure (perhaps from the use of flags as points of reference in battle) , from Old French *estandard*, flag marking a rallying place, from Frankish **standhard*, probably originally meaning standing firmly, steadfast : **standan*, to stand; see [stā-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + **hard*, firm, hard; see [kar-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

stan dard·ly *adv.*

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

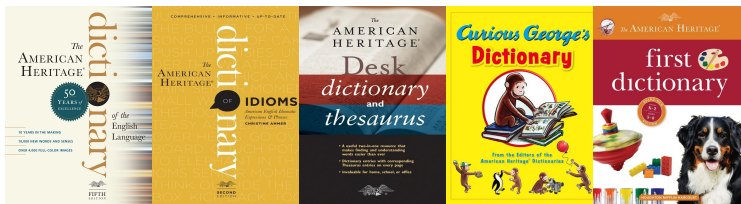
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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