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dictionary

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ac·cess  (ăk sēs)

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n.

1. A means of approaching, entering, exiting, communicating with, or making use of: *a store with easy access.*
2. The ability or right to approach, enter, exit, communicate with, or make use of: *has access to the restricted area; has access to classified material.*
3. Public access.
4. An increase by addition.
5. An outburst or onset: *an access of rage.*

tr.v. **ac·cessed**, **ac·cess·ing**, **ac·cess·es**

To obtain access to, especially by computer: *used a browser to access a website; accessed her bank account online.*

[Middle English *acces*, a coming to, from Old French, from Latin *accessus*, past participle of *accēdere*, to arrive : *ad-*, *ad-* + *cēdere*, to come; see **ked-** [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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