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hack¹  (hăk)

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v. hacked, hack·ing, hacks

v.tr.

1. To cut or chop with repeated and irregular blows: *hacked down the saplings.*
2. To make or shape by hitting or chopping with a sharp implement: *hacked a trail through the forest.*
3. To break up the surface of (soil).
4.
 - a. To alter (a computer program): *hacked her text editor to read HTML.*
 - b. To gain access to (a computer file or network) illegally or without authorization: *hacked the firm's personnel database.*
5. *Slang* To cut or mutilate as if by hacking: *hacked millions off the budget.*
6. *Slang* To cope with successfully; manage: *couldn't hack a second job.*

v.intr.

1. To chop or cut something by hacking.
 2.
 - a. To write or refine computer programs skillfully.
 - b. To use one's skill in computer programming to gain illegal or unauthorized access to a file or network: *hacked into the company's intranet.*
 3. To cough roughly or harshly.
- n.**
1. A rough, irregular cut made by hacking.
 2. A tool, such as a hoe, used for hacking.
 3. A blow made by hacking.
 4. An attempt to hit a baseball; a swing of the bat.
 5.
 - a. An instance of gaining unauthorized access to a computer file or network.
 - b. A program that makes use of existing often proprietary software, adding new features to it.
 - c. A clever modification or improvement.
 6. A rough, dry cough.

[Middle English *hakken*, from Old English *-haccian*; see **keg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#). V., intr., sense 2, back-formation from [HACKER](#)¹.]

hack **a·ble** *adj.*

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hack²  (hăk)

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n.

1. A horse used for riding or driving; a hackney.
2. A worn-out horse for hire; a jade.

3.

a. One who undertakes unpleasant or distasteful tasks for money or reward; a hireling.

b. A writer hired to produce routine or commercial writing.

4. A carriage or hackney for hire.

5. *Informal*

a. A taxicab.

b. See [hackie](#).

v. **hacked**, **hack·ing**, **hacks**

v.*tr.*

1. To let out (a horse) for hire.

2. To make banal or hackneyed with indiscriminate use.

v.*intr.*

1. To drive a taxicab for a living.

2. To work for hire as a writer.

3. To ride on horseback at an ordinary pace.

adj.

1. By, characteristic of, or designating routine or commercial writing: *hack prose*.

2. Hackneyed; banal.

Phrasal Verb:

hack out *Informal*

To produce (written material, for example), especially hastily or routinely: *hacked out a weekly column*.

[Short for [HACKNEY](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

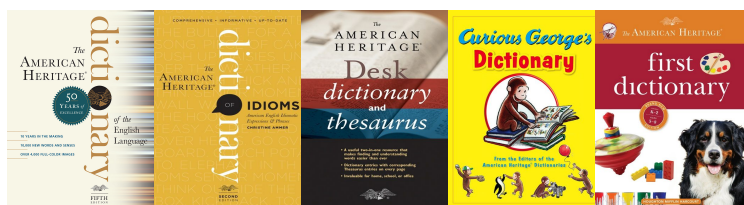
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