



The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars, creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language. Annual surveys have gauged the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions.

[The Panelists](#)



AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY APP

The new American Heritage Dictionary app is now available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY BLOG

The articles in our [blog](#) examine new words, revised definitions, interesting images from the fifth edition, discussions of usage, and more.

THE 100 WORDS®

See word lists from the best-selling 100 Words Series!

[Find out more!](#)



INTERESTED IN DICTIONARIES?

Check out the Dictionary Society of North America at <http://www.dictionariesociety.com>

hide¹  (hīd)

Share: [Post](#)

v. **hid** (hīd), **hid·den** (hīd n) or **hid**, **hid·ing**, **hides**

v.tr.

1. To put or keep out of sight or away from notice: *hid the money in a sock.*
2. To prevent the disclosure or recognition of; conceal: *tried to hide the facts.*
3. To cut off from sight; cover up: *Clouds hid the stars.* See Synonyms at [block](#).
4. To avert (one's gaze), especially in shame or grief.

v.intr.

1. To keep oneself out of sight or notice.
2. To seek refuge or respite: *"no place to hide from boredom or anger or loneliness" (Matt Teague).*

Phrasal Verbs:

hide behind

To keep from being criticized or caught doing wrong by making use or mention of (something), especially as an excuse: *"[She] said she would not hide behind political euphemism when discussing taxes" (William Yardley).*

hide out

To be in hiding, as from a pursuer: *The gangsters hid out in a remote cabin until it was safe to return to the city.*

[Middle English *hiden*, from Old English *hȳdan*; see (s)keu- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Synonyms: **hide**¹, **conceal**, **secrete**², **cache**, **cloak**

These verbs mean to keep from the sight or knowledge of others. *Hide* and *conceal* are the most general and are often used interchangeably: *I used a throw rug to hide (or conceal) the stain on the carpet. I smiled to hide (or conceal) my hurt feelings.*

Secrete and *cache* involve concealment in a place unknown to others; *cache* often implies storage for later use: *The lioness secreted her cubs in the tall grass. The mountain climbers cached their provisions in a cave.*

To *cloak* is to conceal something by masking or disguising it: *"On previously cloaked issues, the Soviets have suddenly become forthcoming" (John McLaughlin).* See Also Synonyms at **block**.

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

hide²  (hīd)

Share: [Post](#) [Tweet](#)

n.

The skin of an animal, especially the thick tough skin or pelt of a large animal.

tr.v. **hid·ed**, **hid·ing**, **hides**

To beat severely; flog.

Idiom:

hide nor hair

A trace; a vestige: *haven't seen hide nor hair of them since the argument.*

[Middle English, from Old English *hȳd*; see (s)keu- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

hide ³  (hīd)

Share: [Tweet](#)

n.

An old English measure of land, usually the amount held adequate for one free family and its dependents.

[Middle English, from Old English *hīd*; see **kei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

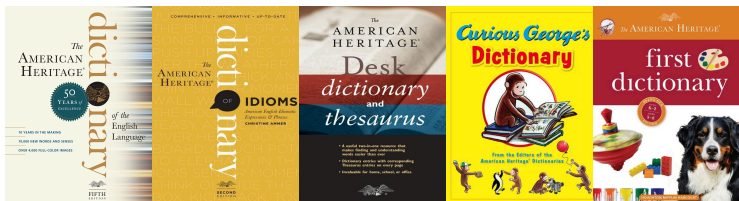
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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](#).

American Heritage Dictionary Products



[The American Heritage Dictionary, 5th Edition](#)
[The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms](#)
[The American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus](#)

[Curious George's Dictionary](#)
[The American Heritage Children's Dictionary](#)

- **CONTACT US**
 - [Customer Service](#)
 - [Make Me An Author](#)
 - [Ebooks Help with Glose Reader](#)
- **ABOUT US**
 - [Company Profile](#)
 - [Leadership Team](#)
 - [Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
 - [HarperCollins Careers](#)
- [HarperCollins Imprints](#)
- [HarperGreen](#)
- [Social Media Directory](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- **FOR READERS**
 - [Browse Reading Guides](#)
- **FOR AUTHORS**
 - [Submit a Manuscript](#)
 - [Report Piracy](#)
- [Agent Portal](#)
- **MEDIA**
 - [Publicity Contacts](#)
 - [Press Room](#)
- **SERVICES**
 - [HarperCollins Speakers Bureau](#)
 - [Library Services](#)
 - [Academic Services](#)
 - [Desk & Exam Copies](#)

- [Review Copies](#)
- [OpenBook API](#)
- [Marketing Partnerships](#)
- **COVID-19 RESOURCES & PERMISSIONS**
- [Permissions for Adult Online Readings](#)
- [Permissions for Kids Online Readings](#)
- **SALES & RIGHTS**
- [Booksellers & Retailer Ordering](#)
- [HarperCollins Catalogs](#)
- [Permissions](#)
- [Subsidiary Rights](#)
- [Media Rights and Content Development](#)
- **GLOSE APP**
- [iPhone](#)
- [Android](#)
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
- **GLOBAL DIVISIONS**
- [HarperCollins US](#)
- [HarperCollins Canada](#)
- [HarperCollins Christian](#)
- [HarperCollins Australia](#)
- [HarperCollins India](#)
- [HarperCollins UK](#)
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-



News Corp

[Terms of Use](#) • [Terms of Sale](#) • [Your Ad Choices](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [California Privacy Policy](#)
[Do Not Sell My Personal Information](#)

Copyright 2022 HarperCollins Publishers All rights reserved.

*This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.