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dictionary

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English
Language



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hole 🗨️ (hōl)

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n.

1. A hollowed place in something solid; a cavity or pit: *dug a hole in the ground with a shovel.*
2.
 - a. An opening or perforation: *a hole in the clouds; had a hole in the elbow of my sweater.*
 - b. *Sports* An opening in a defensive formation, such as the area of a baseball infield between two adjacent fielders.
 - c. A fault or flaw: *There are holes in your argument.*
3. A deep place in a body of water.
4. An animal's hollowed-out habitation, such as a burrow.
5. An ugly, squalid, or depressing dwelling.
6. A deep or isolated place of confinement; a dungeon.
7. An awkward situation; a predicament.
8. *Sports*
 - a. The small pit lined with a cup into which a golf ball must be hit.
 - b. One of the divisions of a golf course, from tee to cup.
9. *Physics* A vacant position in an atom left by the absence of a valence electron, especially a position in a semiconductor that acts as a carrier of positive electric charge. Also called *electron hole*.

v. **holed, hol-ing, holes**

v.tr.

1. To put a hole in.
2. To put or propel into a hole.

v.intr.

To make a hole in something.

Phrasal Verbs:

hole out *Sports*

To hit a golf ball into the hole.

hole up

1. To hibernate in or as if in a hole.
2. *Informal* To take refuge in or as if in a hideout.

Idiom:

in the hole

1. Having a score below zero.
2. In debt.
3. At a disadvantage.

[Middle English, from Old English *hol*; see **kel-**¹ [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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