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dictionary

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Language



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haul  (hōl)

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v. hauled, haul·ing, hauls

v. tr.

1. To pull or drag forcibly: *They hauled the boat onto the beach. We hauled the wood into the shed.* See Synonyms at [pull](#).

2. To transport, as with a truck or cart: *The contractor used a truck to haul away the dirt and debris.*

3.

a. To cause (oneself) to move, especially slowly or laboriously: *I hauled myself down to the lobby.*

b. To compel to go, especially for trial: *hauled their competitor into court.*

4. *Nautical* To change the course of (a ship), especially in order to sail closer into the wind.

v. intr.

1. To pull or drag something forcibly.

2. To provide transportation; cart.

3. To shift direction: *The wind hauled to the east.*

4. *Nautical* To change the course of a ship.

n.

1. The act of pulling or dragging.

2. The act of transporting or carting.

3. A distance, especially the distance over which something is pulled or transported: *a long haul across the country.*

4.

a. Something that is pulled or transported; a load.

b. Everything collected or acquired at a single time; the take: *a big haul of fish.*

Phrasal Verbs:

haul off *Informal*

1. To draw back slightly, as in preparation for initiating an action: *"hauled off and smacked the hapless aide across the face"* (Bill Barol).

2. To withdraw or move to another place.

haul out

To move from water onto the shore: *a beach where seals often haul out; canoeists who hauled out on the riverbank to rest.*

haul up

To come to a halt.

Idiom:

haul ass *Vulgar Slang*

To move quickly: *We'll be late if you don't haul ass.*

[Middle English *hauen*, from Old French *haler*, of Germanic origin; see **kela**-² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

haul *er n.*

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](#).

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