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claim  (klām)

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tr.v. **claimed**, **claim-ing**, **claims**

1. To demand, ask for, or take as one's own or one's due: *claim a reward; claim one's luggage at the airport carousel.*
2. To take in a violent manner as if by right: *a hurricane that claimed two lives.*
3. To state to be true, especially when open to question; assert or maintain: *claimed he had won the race; a candidate claiming many supporters.*
4. To deserve or call for; require: *problems that claim her attention.*

n.

1. A demand for something as rightful or due.
2. A basis for demanding something; a title or right.
3. Something claimed in a formal or legal manner, especially a tract of public land staked out by a miner or homesteader.
4.
 - a. A demand for payment in accordance with an insurance policy or other formal arrangement.
 - b. The sum of money demanded.
5. A statement of something as a fact; an assertion of truth: *makes no claim to be a cure.*

Idiom:

lay claim to

To assert one's right to or ownership of.

[Middle English *claimen*, from Old French *clamer*, *claim-*, from Latin *clāmāre*, to call; see **kela-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

claim **a·ble** *adj.*

claim **er** *n.*

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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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