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re·claim  (rĭ-klām)

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tr.v. **re·claimed**, **re·claim·ing**, **re·claims**

1. To resume possession of; take back: *reclaimed our luggage; reclaimed the heavyweight boxing title.*
2. *Chiefly British* To legally request what is due: *reclaimed the tax that is owed.*
3. To require or deserve again: *The movie reclaimed my attention.*
4. To bring into or return to a suitable condition for use, as cultivation or habitation: *reclaim marshlands; reclaim strip-mined land.*
5. To procure (usable substances) from refuse or waste products; recycle.
6. To bring back, as from error, to a right or proper course; reform. See Synonyms at [save](#)¹.
7. To use or reinterpret (a historically derogatory name or term) in a positive way, as in pride for one's social group.
8. To tame (a falcon, for example).

n.

Restoration to a previous or reformed state: *a life beyond reclaim.*

[Middle English *reclamen*, to call back, from Old French *reclamer*, to entreat, from Latin *reclāmāre* : *re-*, *re-* + *clāmāre*, to cry out; see *kel-*² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

re·claim **a·ble** *adj.*

re·claim **ant**, **re·claim** **er** *n.*

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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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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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