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class  (klās)

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n.

1. A set, collection, group, or configuration containing members regarded as having certain attributes or traits in common; a kind or category.

2. A division based on quality, rank, or grade, as:

a. A grade of mail: *a package sent third class*.

b. A quality of accommodation on public transport: *tourist class*.

3.

a. A social stratum whose members share certain economic, social, or cultural characteristics: *the lower-income classes*.

b. Social rank or caste, especially high rank.

c. *Informal* Elegance of style, taste, and manner: *an actor with class*.

4.

a. A group of students who are taught together, usually at a regularly scheduled time and in the same subject.

b. The period during which such a group meets: *had to stay after class*.

c. The subject material taught to or studied by such a group: *found the math class challenging*.

d. A group of students or alumni who have the same year of graduation.

5. *Biology* A taxonomic category ranking below a phylum or division and above an order.

6. *Statistics* An interval in a frequency distribution.

7. *Linguistics* A group of words belonging to the same grammatical category that share a particular set of morphological properties, such as a set of inflections.

8. *Mathematics* A collection of sets whose members share a specified property.

tr.v. **classed**, **class·ing**, **class·es**

To arrange, group, or rate according to qualities or characteristics; assign to a class; classify.

[French *classe*, from Latin *classis*, class of citizens; see **kela-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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:

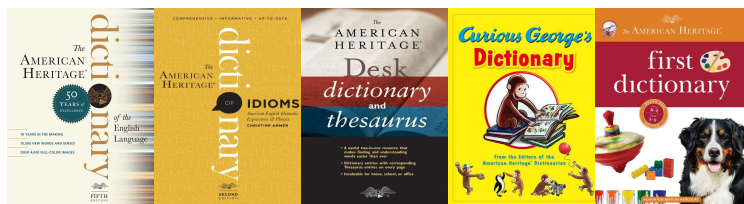
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available

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