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Language



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cor·ner  (kôr nər)

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n.

1.

a. The position at which two lines, surfaces, or edges meet and form an angle: *the four corners of a rectangle.*

b. The area enclosed or bounded by an angle formed in this manner: *sat by myself in the corner; the corner of one's eye.*

2. The place where two roads or streets join or intersect.

3.

a. Sports Any of the four angles of a boxing or wrestling ring where the ropes are joined.

b. Baseball Either side of home plate, toward or away from the batter.

c. A corner kick in soccer.

d. Football A cornerback.

4. A threatening or embarrassing position from which escape is difficult: *got myself into a corner by boasting.*

5. A remote, secluded, or secret place: *the four corners of the earth; a beautiful little corner of Paris.*

6. A part or piece made to fit on a corner, as in mounting or for protection.

7.

a. A speculative monopoly of a stock or commodity created by purchasing all or most of the available supply in order to raise its price.

b. Exclusive possession; monopoly: *"Neither party ... has a corner on all the good ideas" (George B. Merry).*

v. cor·nered, cor·ner·ing, cor·ners

v.tr.

1. To place or drive into a corner: *cornered the thieves and captured them.*

2. To form a corner in (a stock or commodity): *cornered the silver market.*

3. To furnish with corners.

v.intr.

1. To turn, as at a corner: *a truck that corners poorly.*

2. To come together or be situated on or at a corner.

adj.

1. Located at a street corner: *a corner drugstore.*

2. Designed for use in a corner: *a corner table.*

Idiom:

around the corner

About to happen; imminent.

[Middle English, from Anglo-Norman, from Old French *corne*, corner, horn, from Vulgar Latin **cora*, from Latin *cornua*, pl. of *cornū*, horn, point; see **ker-**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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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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