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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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crew¹  (kr)

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n.

1.

a. A group of people working together; a gang: *a crew of stagehands*.

b. Slang A group of people, especially friends or associates.

2.

a. All personnel operating or serving aboard a ship.

b. All of a ship's personnel except the officers.

c. All personnel operating or serving aboard an aircraft in flight.

3. Sports

a. A team of rowers, as of a racing shell.

b. The sport of rowing.

v. crewed, crew·ing, crews

v.intr.

To serve as a member of a crew: *crewed on a sloop*.

v.tr.

To serve as a crew member on: *The space station will be crewed by a team of eight people.*

[Middle English *creue*, military reinforcement, from Old French, increase, from feminine past participle of *creistre*, to grow, from Latin *crēscere*; see **ker-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

crew man *n.*

crew per'son *n.*

crew wom'an *n.*

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crew²  (kr)

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v.

Chiefly British

A past tense of [crow](#)².

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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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