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dictionary

of the
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Language



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cred·i·ble  (krĕd ə-bəl)

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adj.

1. Capable of being believed; believable or plausible: *a credible witness; a credible explanation*. See Synonyms at [plausible](#).
2. Considered capable of achieving a goal: *The party must nominate a credible candidate for governor*.
3. Being of sufficient military capability to deter an attack or carry out an operation successfully: *credible military force*.

[Middle English, from Latin *crēdibilis*, from *crēdere*, to believe; see **kerd-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cred i·ble·ness *n.*

cred i·bly *adv.*

Usage Note: *Credible* is widely but incorrectly used where *credulous* would be appropriate. *Credulous* means "believing too readily" or "gullible," as in *He was credulous (not credible) enough to believe the manufacturer's claims*.

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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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