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dictionary

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cred·it  (krĕd ĭt)

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n.

1.

a. An arrangement for deferred payment of a loan or purchase: *a store that offers credit; bought my stereo on credit.*

b. The terms governing such an arrangement: *low prices and easy credit.*

c. The time allowed for deferred payment: *an automatic 30-day credit on all orders.*

2.

a. The deduction of a payment made by a debtor from an amount due.

b. The positive balance or amount remaining in a person's account.

c. A credit line.

3. Reputation for solvency and integrity entitling a person to be trusted in buying or borrowing: *You should have no trouble getting the loan if your credit is good.*

4.

a. Official certification or recognition that a student has successfully completed a course of study: *He received full credit for his studies at a previous school.*

b. A unit of study so certified: *This course carries three credits.*

5. often **credits** An acknowledgment of work done, as in the production of a motion picture or publication: *At the end of the film we stayed to watch the credits.*

6. Influence based on the good opinion or confidence of others: *used his credit with the police to get them to devote more time to the case.*

7. Recognition or approval for an act, ability, or quality: *gave them credit for a job well done.*

8. A source of honor or distinction: *This exceptional athlete is a credit to our team.*

9. A reputation for sound character or quality; standing: *It is to their credit that they worked so hard without complaining.*

10. Belief or confidence in the truth of something: *"They give no credit to [his] scurrilous assertions" (John Edgar Wideman).* See Synonyms at [belief](#).

tr.v. **cred·it·ed**, **cred·it·ing**, **cred·its**

1.

a. To give as a credit: *credited \$500 to her account.*

b. To give a credit to: *credit an account.*

2. To give or award an educational credit to.

3.

a. To regard as having performed an action or being endowed with a quality: *had to credit them with good intentions.*

b. To ascribe or attribute: *credit the invention to him; credited her recovery to an innovative treatment.* See Synonyms at [attribute](#).

4. *Archaic* To bring honor or distinction to.

[French, from Old French, from Old Italian *credito*, from Latin *crēditum*, loan, from neuter past participle of *crēdere*, to entrust; see **kerd-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

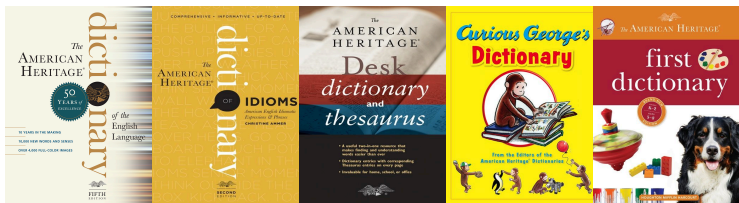
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

Indo-European Roots

Semitic Roots

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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