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rec·re·ant  (rĕk rē-ənt)

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adj.

1. Unfaithful or disloyal to a belief, duty, or cause: "Consider the man who stands by his duty and goes to the stake rather than be recreant to it" (Mark Twain).
2. *Archaic* Craven or cowardly.

n.

1. A faithless or disloyal person.
2. *Archaic* A coward.

[Middle English *recreaunt*, defeated, from Old French *recreant*, present participle of *recroire*, to yield in a trial by combat, surrender allegiance, from Medieval Latin *recrēdere*, to yield, pledge : Latin *re-*, *re-* + Latin *crēdere*, to believe; see **kerd** - [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

rec re·ance, **rec re·an·cy** *n.*

rec re·ant·ly *adv.*

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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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