



The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

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ex·cerpt  (ĕk sŭrpt')

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n.

A passage or segment taken from a longer work, such as a literary or musical composition, a document, or a film.

tr.v. (ĭk-sŭrpt) **ex·cerpt·ed**, **ex·cerpt·ing**, **ex·cerpts**

1. To select or use (a passage or segment from a longer work).
2. To select or use material from (a longer work).

[From Middle English, excerpted, from Latin *excerptus*, past participle of *excerpere*, to pick out : *ex-*, *ex-* + *carpere*, to pluck; see **kerp-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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](#)

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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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