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dictionary

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Language



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cur·rent  (kûr ənt, kûr -)

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adj.

1.

a. Belonging to the present time; present-day: *current events*; *current leaders*; *my current address*.

b. Being in progress now: *current negotiations*.

2. Commonly accepted or used; prevalent: *current fashions*; *current technology*. See Synonyms at [prevailing](#).

3. Passing from one to another; circulating, as money or a rumor: *current bills and coins*.

4. Running; flowing.

n.

1. A steady, smooth onward flow or movement: *a current of air from a fan*; *a current of spoken words*. See Synonyms at [flow](#).

2. The part of a body of liquid or gas that has a continuous onward movement: *rowed out into the river's swift current*.

3. A general tendency, movement, or course. See Synonyms at [tendency](#).

4. *Symbol* | *Electricity*

a. A flow of electric charge.

b. The amount of electric charge flowing past a specified circuit point per unit time, usually expressed in amperes.

[Middle English *curraunt*, from Old French *corant*, present participle of *courre*, to run, from Latin *currere*; see **kers-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

cur rent·ly *adv.*

cur rent·ness *n.*

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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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