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ca·reer  (kə-rîr)

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n.

1.

a. A chosen pursuit; a profession or occupation.

b. The general course or progression of one's working life or one's professional achievements: *an officer with a distinguished career; a teacher in the midst of a long career.*

2. A path or course, as of the sun through the heavens.

3. Speed: "*My hasting days fly on with full career*" (John Milton).

adj.

Doing what one does as a permanent occupation or lifework: *career diplomats; a career criminal.*

intr.v. **ca·reered**, **ca·reer·ing**, **ca·reers**

To move forward at high speed, often with minimal control: "*that lordly car ... How smoothly it ran. In what style they had come careering along the country roads!*" (James Joyce).

[French *carrière*, from Old French, racecourse, from Old Provençal *carriera*, street, from Medieval Latin (via) *carrāria*, (road) for carts, feminine of *carrārius*, from Latin *carrus*, a Gallic type of wagon; see **kers-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

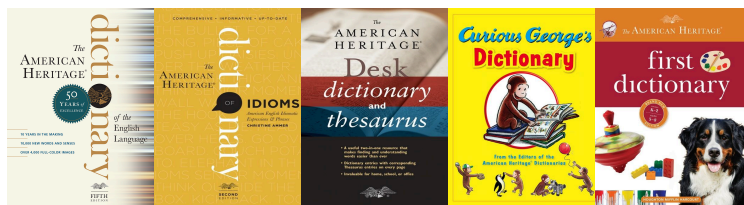
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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