



The  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

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.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**quash**<sup>1</sup>  (kwŏsh)

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*tr.v.* **quashed**, **quash·ing**, **quash·es**

To annul or put an end to (a court order, indictment, or court proceedings).

[Middle English *quassen*, from Anglo-Norman *casser*, *quasser*, from Medieval Latin *quassāre*, alteration (influenced by *quassāre*, to crush, shatter) of *cassāre*, from Latin *cassus*, empty, void; see **kes-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**quash**<sup>2</sup>  (kwŏsh)

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*tr.v.* **quashed**, **quash·ing**, **quash·es**

1. To put down or suppress forcibly and completely: *quash a rebellion*.
2. To put an end to or destroy: *quash a rumor*; *quash hopes of an agreement*.

[Middle English *quashen*, from Old French *quasser*, from Medieval Latin *quassāre*, to shatter, from Latin; see [SQUASH](#)<sup>2</sup>.]

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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](#)

[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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