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Language



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ex·ca·vate  (ĕk skə-vāt')

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v. ex·ca·vat·ed, ex·ca·vat·ing, ex·ca·vates

v.tr.

1. To make a hole in; hollow out: *excavate an ore-rich hillside.*
2. To form by hollowing out.
3. To remove by digging or scooping out.
4. To expose or uncover by or as if by digging: *excavate an archaeological site.*

v.intr.

To engage in digging, hollowing out, or removing.

[Latin *excavāre*, *excavāt-*, to hollow out : *ex-*, *ex-* + *cavāre*, to hollow (from *cavus*, hollow; see **keua-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

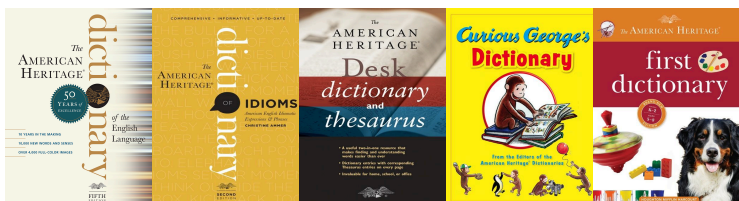
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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