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tri·clin·i·um  (trī-klīn ē-əm)

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n. pl. tri·clin·i·a (-ē-ə)

1. A couch facing three sides of a rectangular table, used by the ancient Greeks, Etruscans, and Romans for reclining at meals.
2. A room containing such a couch or couches; a dining room.

[Latin *trīclīnium*, from Greek *triklīnion*, diminutive of *triklīnos*, room with three couches : *tri-*, three; see **trei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *klīnē*, couch; see **klei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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:

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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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