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lis·ten  (lĭs ən)

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intr.v. **lis·tened**, **lis·ten·ing**, **lis·tens**

1. To make an effort to hear something: *listen to the radio; listen for the bell that ends class.*

2. To pay attention; heed: “*She encouraged me to listen carefully to what country people called mother wit*” (Maya Angelou).

n.

An act of listening: *Would you like to give the CD a listen before buying it?*

Phrasal Verb:

listen in

1. To listen to a conversation between others; eavesdrop.

2. To tune in and listen to a broadcast.

Idiom:

listen up

Used as command to get a group or individual to pay attention: *Listen up, everyone—we have to evacuate!*

[Middle English *listenen*, alteration (influenced by *listen*, to list, listen; see [LIST](#)⁴) of Old English *hlýsnan*; see **kleu-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

lis ten·er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

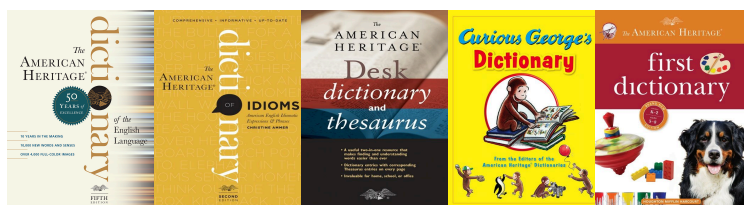
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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