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hinge  (hɪŋj)

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n.

1.

a. A jointed or flexible device that allows the turning or pivoting of a part, such as a door or lid, on a stationary frame.

b. A similar structure or part, such as one that enables the valves of a bivalve mollusk to open and close.

2. A small folded paper rectangle gummed on one side, used especially to fasten stamps in an album.

3. A point or circumstance on which subsequent events depend.

v. **hinged, hing-ing, hing-es**

v.tr.

1. To attach by or equip with or as if with hinges or a hinge.

2. To consider or make (something) dependent on something else; predicate: *"convenient and misleading fictions for hinging an argument" (Stephen Jay Gould).*

v.intr.

To be contingent on a single factor; depend: *This plan hinges on her approval.*

[Middle English *henge*; see **konk-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

hinge

left: strap hinge

right: T-hinge

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[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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