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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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hear  (hîr)

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v. **heard** (hûrd), **hear·ing**, **hears**

v.tr.

1. To perceive (sound) by the ear: *Can you hear the signal?*

2. To learn by hearing; be told by others: *I heard she got married.*

3.

a. To listen to (something) attentively or in an official capacity, as in a court: *heard the last witness in the afternoon.*

b. To listen to and consider favorably: *Lord, hear my prayer!*

c. To attend or participate in: *hear Mass.*

v.intr.

1. To be capable of perceiving sound.

2. To receive news or information; learn: *I heard about your accident.*

3. To consider, permit, or consent to something. Used only in the negative: *I won't hear of your going!*

Phrasal Verb:

hear from

1. To get a letter, telephone call, or transmitted communication from.

2. To be reprimanded by: *If you don't do your homework, you're going to hear from me.*

Idioms:

hear, hear

Used to express approval.

never hear the end of

To be complained to or told about (something) repeatedly or for a long time.

[Middle English *hearen*, Old English *hīeran*; see **kous-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

hear **er** *n.*

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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:

[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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