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crime  (krīm)

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n.

1. An act committed in violation of law where the consequence of conviction by a court is punishment, especially where the punishment is a serious one such as imprisonment.
2. Unlawful activity: *statistics relating to violent crime.*
3. A serious offense, especially one in violation of morality.
4. An unjust, senseless, or disgraceful act or condition: *It's a crime to waste all that paper.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *crīmen*; see **krei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

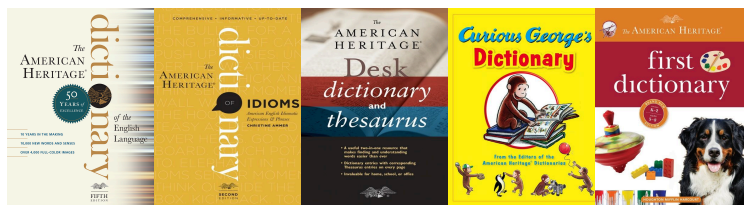
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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