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pun·ish  (pŭn ɪʃ)

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v. **pun·ished**, **pun·ish·ing**, **pun·ish·es**

v.tr.

1. To subject to a penalty for an offense, sin, or fault.

2. To inflict a penalty for (an offense).

3. To handle or use roughly; damage or hurt: *My boots were punished by our long trek through the desert.*

v.intr.

To exact or mete out punishment.

[Middle English *punissen*, *punishen*, from Old French *punir*, *puniss-*, from Latin *poenīre*, *pūnīre*, from *poena*, punishment, from Greek *poinē*; see ^{k^wei-1} [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pun'ish·a·bil i·ty *n.*

pun ish·a·ble *adj.*

pun ish·er *n.*

Synonyms: punish, chastise, discipline, castigate, penalize

These verbs mean to subject a person to something negative for an offense, sin, or fault. *Punish* is the least specific: *The principal punished the students who were caught cheating.* *Chastise* historically has entailed corporal punishment but now usually involves a verbal rebuke as a means of effecting improvement in behavior: *The sarcastic child was roundly chastised for insolence.* *Discipline* stresses punishment inflicted by an authority in order to control or to eliminate unacceptable conduct: *The worker was disciplined for insubordination.* *Castigate* means to censure or criticize severely, often in public: *The judge castigated the attorney for badgering the witness.* *Penalize* usually implies the forfeiture of money or of a privilege or gain because rules or regulations have been broken: *Those who file their income-tax returns late will be penalized.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

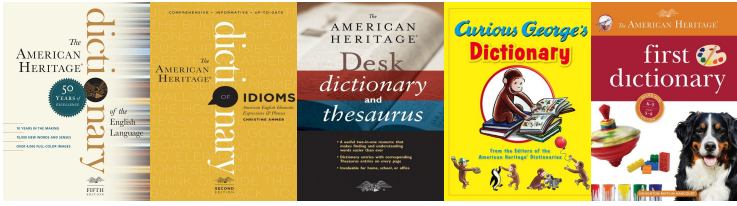
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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