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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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cy·cle  (sī kəl)

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n.

1. An interval of time during which a characteristic, often regularly repeated event or sequence of events occurs: *Sunspots increase and decrease in intensity in an 11-year cycle.*

2.

a. A single complete execution of a periodically repeated phenomenon: *A year constitutes a cycle of the seasons.*

b. A periodically repeated sequence of events: *the cycle of birth, growth, and death; a cycle of reprisal and retaliation.*

3. The orbit of a celestial body.

4. A long period of time; an age.

5.

a. The aggregate of traditional poems or stories organized around a central theme or hero: *the Arthurian cycle.*

b. A series of poems or songs on the same theme: *Schubert's song cycles.*

6. A bicycle, motorcycle, or similar vehicle.

7. *Botany* A circular or whorled arrangement of flower parts such as those of petals or sepals.

8. *Baseball* The achievement of hitting a single, double, triple, and home run in a single game.

v. **cy·cled, cy·cling, cy·cles**

v.intr.

1. To occur in or pass through a cycle.

2. To move in or as if in a cycle.

3. To ride a bicycle, motorcycle, or similar vehicle.

v.tr.

To use in or put through a cycle: *cycled the heavily soiled laundry twice; cycling the recruits through eight weeks of basic training.*

[Middle English *cicle*, from Late Latin *cyclus*, from Greek *kuklos*, circle; see **k^wel-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cy cler *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

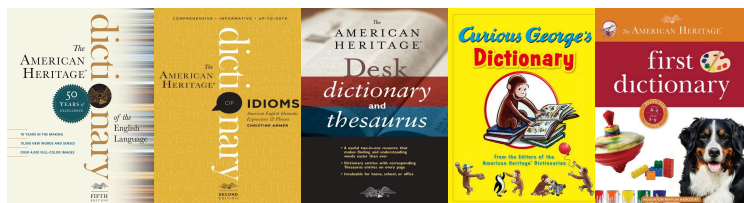
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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