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squash ¹ (skwŏsh, skwôsh)

Share:

n.

1. Any of various bushy or vining plants of the genus *Cucurbita*, having unisexual flowers and fleshy edible fruit with a thick rind when mature.
2. The fruit of any of these plants, eaten as a vegetable.

[From alteration of Narragansett *askútasquash*.]

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squash ² (skwŏsh, skwôsh)

Share:

v. **squashed**, **squash·ing**, **squash·es**

v.tr.

1. To beat, squeeze, or press into a pulp or a flattened mass; crush. See Synonyms at [crush](#).
2. To put down or suppress; quash: *squash a revolt*.
3. To silence or fluster, as with crushing words: *squash a heckler*.

v.intr.

1. To become crushed, flattened, or pulpy, as by pressure or impact.
2. To move with a splashing or sucking sound, as when walking through boggy ground.

n.

1.

a. The act or sound of squashing.

b. Something that has been squashed.

2. A crushed or crowded mass: *a squash of people*.

3. *Sports* A game played on a four-walled court by two or four players who use long-handled rackets to hit a small rubber ball against the front wall, with play stopping if the ball bounces twice on the floor or does not reach the front wall after a stroke. Also called *squash rackets*.

4. *Chiefly British* A citrus-based soft drink.

adv.

With a squashing sound.

[Middle English *squachen*, from Old French *esquasser*, from Vulgar Latin **exquassāre* : Latin *ex-*, intensive pref.; see [EX-](#) + Latin *quassāre*, to shatter, frequentative of *quātere*, to shake; see **kwēt-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

squash *er 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

Semitic Roots

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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