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res·cue  (rĕs ky)

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tr.v. **res·cued**, **res·cu·ing**, **res·cues**

1. To cause to be free from danger, imprisonment, or difficulty; save. See Synonyms at [save](#)¹.
2. *Law* To remove (a person or property) from legal custody by force, in violation of the law.

n.

1. An act of rescuing; a deliverance.
2. *Law* The criminal offense of removing a person or property.

[Middle English *rescouen*, from Old French *rescourre* : *re-*, *re-* + *escourre*, to shake (from Latin *excutere* : *ex-*, *ex-* + *quaterē*, to shake; see **kwēt-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

res cu·a·ble *adj.*

res cu·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](#)

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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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