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quar·an·tine  (kwôr ən-tēn', kwôr -)

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n.

1.

a. A condition, period of time, or place in which a person, animal, plant, vehicle, or amount of material suspected of carrying an infectious agent is kept in confinement or isolated in an effort to prevent disease from spreading.

b. An action resulting in such a condition: *the government's quarantine of the animals.*

2.

a. An action to isolate another nation, such as a blockade of its ports or a severance of diplomatic or trade relations.

b. The condition of being isolated by such an action.

3. *Computers* The isolation of data or data transmissions in order to keep viruses, worms, or other malware from infecting a computer or computer network.

tr.v. **quar·an·tined, quar·an·tin·ing, quar·an·tines**

To isolate in quarantine.

[Italian *quarantena*, from Venetian dialectal Italian, quarantine of a ship (so called because the length of the quarantine was typically forty days), from Old Italian *quarantina*, period of forty days (such as one designated for fasting or penance), from *quaranta*, forty, from Latin *quadrāgintā*; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

quar'an·tin a·ble *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

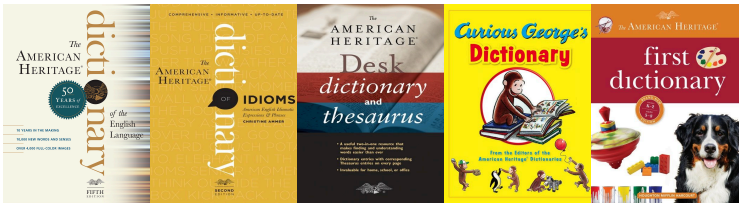
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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