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THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars, creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language. Annual surveys have gauged the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions.

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ca·dre  (kā drā, kā drə)

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n.

1. A nucleus of trained personnel around which a larger organization can be built and trained: *a cadre of corporals who train recruits.*

2.

a. A tightly knit group of zealots who are active in advancing the interests of a revolutionary party.

b. A member of such a group.

[French, from Italian *quadro*, frame, from Latin *quadrum*, a square; see **k^wetwer-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

Usage Note: *Cadre* was borrowed in the 1800s from French, where it had originally meant “frame” but had come to refer also to a group of commanding officers, civil servants, or managers. French speakers will recognize that the source word’s final *e* has no accent and thus is not pronounced with an (ā) sound. The (kā drā) pronunciation is an American invention that arose as a mistake, probably because its foreign or European origin remained vaguely in people’s awareness without a clear understanding of the French source word. In this situation, when a word is thought to be a foreign borrowing, people often follow established patterns of pronunciation in borrowed words, and for *cadre*, Spanish *padre* presents a familiar model. The pronunciation of *cadre* ending in (ā) may also have been made more likely by the tendency of English speakers to drop accent marks when spelling French borrowings, such as *protege* or *cliche*, while retaining the final vowel sound. In any case, the pronunciation of *cadre* with a final (ā) predominates in the United States. In our 2016 survey, 79 percent of the Usage Panel said they pronounced the word this way, while 21 percent said they used (kā drə). Very small minorities of 2 percent each pronounced it as (kăd rē) or (kā dər), but both of these pronunciations were deemed unacceptable by a large majority of the Panel.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

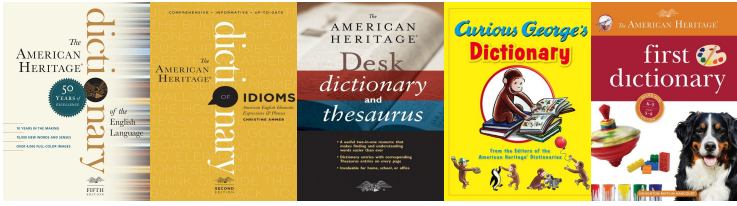
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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