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square  (skwâr)

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n.

1. A polygon having four equal sides and four equal angles.
2. Something having an equal-sided rectangular form: *a square of cloth*.
3. A T-shaped or L-shaped instrument for drawing or testing right angles.
4. *Mathematics* The product obtained when a number or quantity is multiplied by itself: *49 is the square of 7*.
5. *Games* Any of the quadrilateral spaces on a board, as in chess.
6.
 - a. *Abbr. Sq.* An open, usually four-sided area at the intersection of two or more streets, often planted with grass and trees for use as a park.
 - b. A rectangular space enclosed by streets and occupied by buildings; a block.
7. The flower bud of a cotton plant, with three bracts surrounding the unopened flower in a pyramidal structure.
8. *Slang* A person who is regarded as dull, rigidly conventional, and out of touch with current trends.

adj. squar·er, squar·est

1. Having four equal sides and four right angles.
2. Forming a right angle.
3. In alignment or flush: *Put the paper square with the edge of the desk*.
4.
 - a. *Abbr. sq.* Expressed in units measuring area: *square feet*.
 - b. Having a specified length in each of two equal dimensions: *a room that is 12 feet square*.
5. Having a base that is a square: *a square pyramid*.
6. *Nautical* Set at right angles to the mast and keel. Used of the yards of a square-rigged ship.
7. Approximately rectangular and equilateral in cross section: *a square house*.
8. Characterized by blocklike solidity or sturdiness.
9. Honest; direct: *a square answer*.
10. Just; equitable: *a square deal*.
11. Having all accounts settled; even: *I paid what I owed you, so we're square*.
12. *Sports* Even; tied.
13. *Slang* Rigidly conventional; dull.

v. squared, squar·ing, squares

v.tr.

1. To cut to a square or rectangular shape. Often used with *off*.
2. To test or adjust for conformity to a desired plane, straight line, or right angle.
3. To mark into squares. Often used with *off*.
4.
 - a. To bring into conformity or agreement: *She could not square the request with her principles*.
 - b. To bring (oneself) into a better position or relation: *He tried to square himself with his parents*.
5. To set straight or at approximate right angles: *square one's cap*.
6. To bring into balance; settle: *square a debt*.
7. *Sports* To even the score of: *to square a game*.
8. *Mathematics*
 - a. To raise (a number or quantity) to the second power.
 - b. To find a square equal in area to (the area of a given figure).
9. *Informal* To bribe or fix: *a party in litigation that tried to square the judge*.

v.intr.

1. *Mathematics* To be at right angles.
2. To agree or conform: *a story that doesn't square with the facts.*

adv.

1. *Mathematics* At right angles.
2. In a square shape.
3. In a solid manner; firmly.
4. Directly; straight: *ran square into each other.*
5. In an honest, straightforward manner.

Phrasal Verbs:

square away

1. *Nautical* To square the yards of a sailing vessel.
2. To put away or in order.

square off

To assume a fighting stance; prepare to fight.

square up

To settle a bill or debt.

Idioms:

on the square

1. *Mathematics* At right angles.
2. Honestly and openly: *has always dealt on the square.*

out of square

1. *Mathematics* Not at exact right angles.
2. Not in agreement.

square peg in a round hole *Informal*

A misfit.

three squares a day *Informal*

Three square meals eaten in a day.

[Middle English, from Old French *esquarre*, from Vulgar Latin **exquadra*, from **exquadrāre*, to square : Latin *ex-*, *ex-* + *quadrāre*, to give a square shape to (from *quadrum*, a square; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

square *ness* *n.*

squar *er* *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

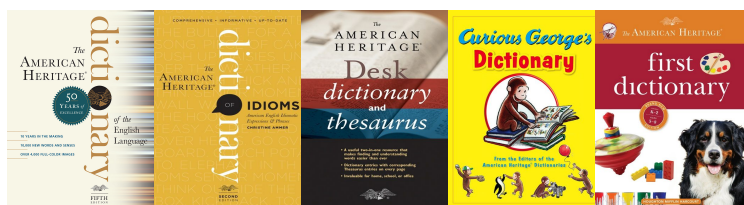
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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