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cheese¹ (chēz)

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n.

1.

a. A solid food prepared from the pressed curd of milk, often seasoned and aged.

b. A molded mass of this substance.

2. Something resembling this substance in shape or consistency.

[Middle English *chese*, from Old English *cȳse*, from Germanic **kasjus*, from Latin *cāseus*.]

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cheese² (chēz)

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tr.v. **cheesed**, **chees-ing**, **chees-es**

Slang

To stop.

Phrasal Verb:

cheese off *Chiefly British Slang*

To anger or irritate: *The footballers were cheesed off by the referee's decision that cost them the game.*

Idiom:

cheese it *Slang*

1. To look out. Often used in the imperative.

2. To get away fast; get going. Often used in the imperative.

[Origin unknown.]

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cheese³ (chēz)

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n.

Slang

An important person.

[Perhaps from Urdu *chīz*, thing, from Persian, from Old Persian **ciš-ci-y*, something; see **k^{wo}**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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