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Language



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re·cess  (rē-sēs', rī-sēs')

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n.

1.

a. A temporary cessation of the customary activities of an engagement, occupation, or pursuit: *The chairman of the committee called for a recess until Thursday.* See Synonyms at [pause](#).

b. A period in the school day during which students are given time to play or relax.

2. often **recesses** A remote, secret, or secluded place: *a bird that lives deep in the recesses of the forest.*

3.

a. An indentation or small hollow: *Dirt accumulated in the recesses of the statue.*

b. An alcove.

v. **re·cessed**, **re·cess·ing**, **re·cess·es**

v.tr.

1. To place in a recess.

2. To create or fashion a recess in: *recessed a portion of the wall.*

3. To suspend for a recess: *The committee chair recessed the hearings.*

v.intr.

To take a recess: *The investigators recessed for lunch.*

[Latin *recessus*, retreat, from past participle of *recēdere*, to recede; see [RECEDE](#)¹.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

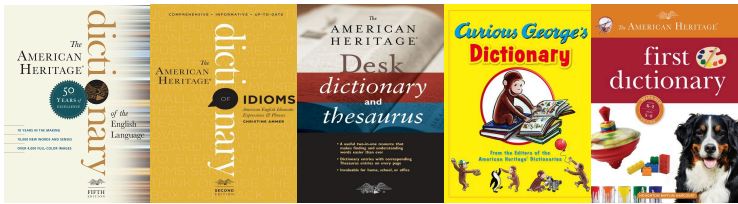
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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