



HOW TO USE THE DICTIONARY

To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



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.

[The Panelists](#)



AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY APP

The new American Heritage Dictionary app is now available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#).



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY BLOG

The articles in our [blog](#) examine new words, revised definitions, interesting images from the fifth edition, discussions of usage, and more.

See word lists from the best-selling 100 Words Series!

[Find out more!](#)



INTERESTED IN DICTIONARIES?

Check out the Dictionary Society of North America at <http://www.dictionarysociety.com>

ap·pro·pri·ate  (ə-prō-prē-īt)

Share: [Tweet](#)

adj.
Suitable for a particular person, condition, occasion, or place; fitting.
tr.v. (-āt') **ap·pro·pri·at·ed**, **ap·pro·pri·at·ing**, **ap·pro·pri·ates**
1. To set apart for a specific use: *appropriating funds for education.*
2. To take possession of or make use of exclusively for oneself, often without permission: *My coworker appropriated my unread newspaper.*

[Middle English *appropriat*, from Late Latin *appropriātus*, past participle of *appropriāre*, to make one's own : Latin *ad-*, *ad-* + Latin *proprius*, own; see **per**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ap·pro·pri·ate·ly *adv.*
ap·pro·pri·ate·ness *n.*
ap·pro·pri·a'tive (-ā'tīv) *adj.*
ap·pro·pri·a'tor *n.*

Synonyms: appropriate, arrogate, commandeer, confiscate

These verbs mean to seize for oneself or as one's right: *appropriated the family car; arrogated the chair at the head of the table; commandeered a plane for the escape; confiscating stolen property.* See Also Synonyms at [allocate](#).

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition copyright ©2022 by HarperCollins Publishers. All rights reserved.

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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

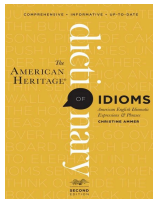
The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

American Heritage Dictionary Products



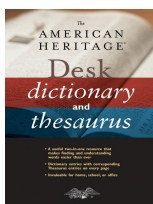
•

[The American Heritage Dictionary, 5th Edition](#)



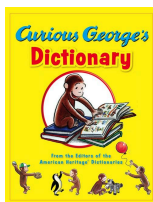
•

[The American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms](#)



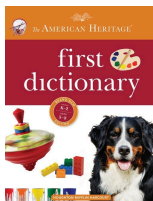
•

[The American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus](#)



•

[Curious George's Dictionary](#)



•

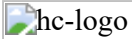
[The American Heritage Children's Dictionary](#)

- **CONTACT US**
 - [Customer Service](#)
 - [Make Me An Author](#)
 - [Ebooks Help with Glose Reader](#)
- **ABOUT US**
 - [Company Profile](#)
 - [Leadership Team](#)
 - [Corporate Social Responsibility](#)
 - [HarperCollins Careers](#)
 - [HarperCollins Imprints](#)
 - [HarperGreen](#)
- [Social Media Directory](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- **FOR READERS**
 - [Browse Reading Guides](#)
- **FOR AUTHORS**
 - [Submit a Manuscript](#)
 - [Report Piracy](#)
 - [Agent Portal](#)
- **MEDIA**
 - [Publicity Contacts](#)
- [Press Room](#)
- **SERVICES**
 - [HarperCollins Speakers Bureau](#)
 - [Library Services](#)
 - [Academic Services](#)
 - [Desk & Exam Copies](#)
 - [Review Copies](#)
 - [OpenBook API](#)
 - [Marketing Partnerships](#)
- **COVID-19 RESOURCES & PERMISSIONS**

- [Permissions for Adult Online Readings](#)
- [Permissions for Kids Online Readings](#)
- **SALES & RIGHTS**
- [Booksellers & Retailer Ordering](#)
- [HarperCollins Catalogs](#)
- [Permissions](#)
- [Subsidiary Rights](#)
- [Media Rights and Content Development](#)

- **GLOSE APP**
- [iPhone](#)
- [Android](#)
-
-
-
- **GLOBAL DIVISIONS**
- [HarperCollins US](#)
- [HarperCollins Canada](#)
- [HarperCollins Christian](#)

- [HarperCollins Australia](#)
- [HarperCollins India](#)
- [HarperCollins UK](#)
-
-
-
-
-
-
-



[Terms of Use](#) • [Terms of Sale](#) • [Your Ad Choices](#) • [Privacy Policy](#) • [California Privacy Policy](#)
[Do Not Sell My Personal Information](#)

Copyright 2022 HarperCollins Publishers All rights reserved.

*This website is best viewed in Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Safari. Some characters in pronunciations and etymologies cannot be displayed properly in Internet Explorer.