ache

See also: **Ache**

Contents

English

Alternative forms

- ake (*obsolete*)

Etymology 1

From Middle English *aken* (verb), and *ache* (noun), from Old English *acan* (verb) (from Proto-Germanic **akaną* ("to be bad, be evil")) and *æċe* (noun) (from Proto-Germanic **akiz*), both from Proto-Indo-European **ag-* ("sin, crime"). Cognate with Low German *aken, achen, äken* ("to hurt, to ache"), North Frisian *akelig, æklig* ("terrible, miserable, sharp, intense"), West Frisian *aaklik* ("nasty, horrible, dismal, dreary"), Dutch *akelig* ("nasty, horrible"). The noun was originally pronounced as spelled, with a palatized *ch* sound (compare *batch*, from *bake*); the verb was originally strong, conjugating for tense like *take* (e.g. *I ake*, *I oke*, *I have aken*), but gradually became weak during Middle English. Historically the verb was spelled **ake**, and the noun **ache**. The verb came to be spelled like the noun when lexicographist Samuel Johnson mistakenly assumed that it derived from Ancient Greek ἄχος (*ákhos*, "pain") due to the similarity in form and meaning of the two words.

Pronunciation

- enPR: āk, IPA^(key): /eɪk/
- Audio (US) ▶ 0:00
- Rhymes: -eɪk

Verb

ache (*third-person singular simple present* **aches**, *present participle* **aching**, *simple past* **ached** *or* (*obsolete*) **oke**, *past participle* **ached** *or* (*obsolete*) **aken**)

1. (*intransitive*) To suffer pain; to be the source of, or be in, pain, especially continued dull pain; to be distressed.
2. (*transitive*, *literary*, *rare*) To cause someone or something to suffer pain.

Derived terms

- ache for

Translations

be in pain

Noun

ache (*plural* **aches**)

1. Continued dull pain, as distinguished from sudden twinges, or spasmodic pain.

Derived terms

Derived terms

Translations

dull pain

See also

- hurt

References

- Shorter Oxford English Dictionary 5th edition.

Etymology 2

From Old French and modern French *ache,* from Latin *apium* ("celery").

Pronunciation

- enPR: āch, IPA^(key): /eɪt͡ʃ/
- Rhymes: -eɪt͡ʃ

Noun

ache (*plural* **aches**)

1. (*obsolete*) Parsley.

Derived terms

- smallage

Etymology 3

Representing the pronunciation of the letter *H*.

Noun

ache (*plural* **aches**)

1. *Rare spelling of* **aitch**.

Anagrams

- Aceh, Chae, Chea, HACE, each

French

Pronunciation

- IPA^(key): /aʃ/
- Rhymes: -aʃ
- Homophones: hache, haches

Etymology 1

Noun

ache *f* (*plural* **aches**)

1. celery (plant)

Etymology 2

Noun

ache _m_ (plural **aches**)

1. aitch, _The name of the_ Latin-script _letter_ **H/h**.

Norman

Etymology

Noun

ache _f_ (_uncountable_)

1. (_Jersey_) wild celery

Synonyms

- céléri sauvage

Portuguese

Pronunciation

- Hyphenation: a·che

Verb

ache

1. _First-person singular (_eu_) present subjunctive of_ **achar**
2. _Third-person singular (_ele_, _ela_, also used with_ **tu** _and_ **você**_²) present subjunctive of_ **achar**
3. _Third-person singular (_você_) affirmative imperative of_ **achar**
4. _Third-person singular (_você_) negative imperative of_ **achar**