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lim·it (līm ĭt)

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n.

1. The point, edge, or line beyond which something ends, may not go, or is not allowed: *the 12-mile fishing limit; the limit of my patience.*

2. **limits** The boundary surrounding a specific area; bounds: *within the city limits.*

3. Something that restricts or restrains; a restraint: *The child needs to have limits put on his behavior.*

4. The greatest or least amount, number, or extent allowed or possible: *a withdrawal limit of \$200; no minimum age limit.*

5. *Games* The largest amount which may be bet at one time in games of chance.

6. *Abbr. lim* **Mathematics**

a. A number or point L that is approached by a function $f(x)$ as x approaches a if, for every positive number ϵ , there exists a number δ such that $|f(x)-L| < \epsilon$ if $|x-a| < \delta$.

b. A number or point L that is approached by a sequence b_n if, for every positive number ϵ , there exists a number N such that $|b_n-L| < \epsilon$ if $n > N$. Also called *limit point*.

7. *Informal* One that is intolerable, remarkable, or extreme in some other way: *"That's the limit!" the babysitter exclaimed after the child spilled a glass of milk.*

tr.v. **lim·it·ed, lim·it·ing, lim·its**

To confine or restrict with a limit: *Let's limit the discussion to what is doable. The offer limits us to three for a dollar.*

[Middle English *limite*, from Old French, border, from Latin *līmes*, *līmit-*, border, limit.]

lim·it·a·ble *adj.*

Synonyms: limit, restrict, confine, circumscribe

These verbs mean to establish or keep within specified bounds. *Limit* refers principally to the establishment of a maximum beyond which a person or thing cannot or may not go: *The Constitution limits the president's term of office to four years.* To *restrict* is to keep within prescribed limits, as of choice or action: *The sale of alcohol is restricted to people who are 21 and older.* *Confine* suggests imprisonment, restraint, or impediment: *The children were confined to the nursery.* *Circumscribe* connotes an encircling or surrounding line that confines, especially narrowly: *"A man ... should not circumscribe his activity by any inflexible fence of rigid rules"* (John Stuart Blackie).

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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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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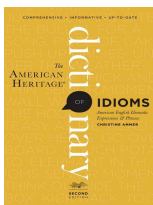
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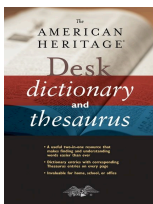
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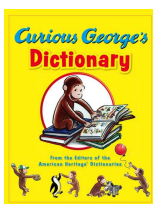
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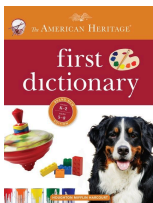
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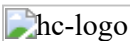


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