

New Collegiate Dictionary

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vic-tim \ˈvik-təm\ *n* [L *victima*; akin to OHG *wih* holy, Skt *vinakti* he sets apart] **1**: a living being sacrificed to a deity or in the performance of a religious rite **2**: one that is acted upon and usu. adversely affected by a force or agent (the schools are ~s of the social system): as **a** (1): one that is injured, destroyed, or sacrificed under any of various conditions (a ~ of cancer) (a ~ of the auto crash) (2): one that is subjected to oppression, hardship, or mistreatment (a frequent ~ of severe political attacks) **b**: one that is tricked or duped (a con man's ~)