

Word Origin:

Old English *cradol*, of uncertain origin; perhaps related to German *Kratte* 'basket'.

Example Bank:

- She sat with the child cradled against her.

cradle

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **cradle**¹ /'kreɪdl/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *noun*

[**Language:** Old English; **Origin:** *cradol*]

1. **[countable]** a small bed for a baby, especially one that moves gently from side to side ⇒ **cot**:

She rocked the cradle to quieten the child.

2. **the cradle of something** *formal* the place where something important began:

Athens is often regarded as the cradle of democracy.

3. **from (the) cradle to (the) grave** all through your life:

From cradle to grave, the car marks every rite of American passage.

4. **[singular]** the beginning of something:

Like most Catholic children, he had heard stories of Ireland from the cradle.

5. **[countable]** a structure that is used to lift something heavy up or down:

a window-cleaner's cradle

6. **[countable]** the part of a telephone where you put the ↑**receiver** when you are not using it:

She replaced the receiver on the cradle.

⇒ **CAT'S CRADLE**, ⇒ **rob the cradle** at ↑**rob**(5)

II. **cradle**² *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ *verb* [transitive]

1. to hold something gently, as if to protect it:

John cradled the baby in his arms.

2. to hold a telephone ↑**receiver** by putting it between your ear and your shoulder:

She hunched over the desk, telephone cradled at her neck.

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THESAURUS

- **hug** (*also give somebody a hug*) to put your arms around someone and hold them tightly to show love or friendship: Mother hugged him and tucked him into bed. | Come here and give me a big hug.
- **embrace** to put your arms around someone and hold him or her in a caring way. **Embrace** is more formal than **hug**: Jason warmly embraced his son. | The two leaders embraced each other.
- **cuddle** to put your arms around someone or something as a sign of love, especially a child or a small animal: She sat on a chair, cuddling her daughter. | He cuddled the puppy.
- **put your arms around somebody** to hold someone closely to your body, especially to comfort them or show that you love them: The woman put her arms around the sobbing boy.
- **cradle** *written* to hold someone very gently in your arms, like you would hold a baby: She held the baby in her arms. | She cradled his head in her hands and kissed him on the forehead

cradle

Freakuency Pack

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RANGE: **6k CRADLE** 3607

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COCA 500k Unlemmatized

1319 **15271**¹⁶⁵⁴ *nn1*

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