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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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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.

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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**ar·ti·o·dac·tyl**  (är'tē-ō-dăk təl)

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*n.*

Any of various hoofed mammals of the order Artiodactyla, having an even number of toes, either two or four, on each foot. Artiodactyls include camels, pigs, hippopotamuses, and the ruminants, such as cattle, deer, sheep, and antelopes.

[From New Latin *Artiodactyla*, order name : Greek *artios*, even; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Greek *daktulos*, toe.]

**ar'ti·o·dac tyl**, **ar'ti·o·dac ty·lous** (-tə-ləs) *adj.*



(click for a larger image)

**artiodactyl**

top: four-toed foot of a hippopotamus

bottom: two-toed foot of a giraffe

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

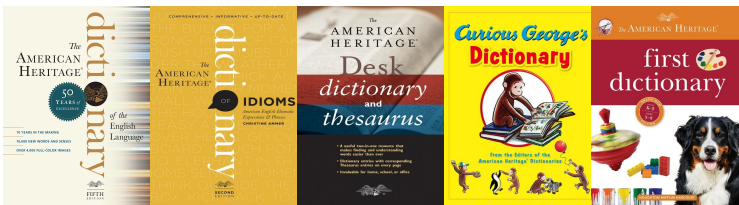
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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](#).

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