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sub·or·di·nate  (sə·bôr dn-īt)

Share:

adj.

1. Belonging to a lower or inferior class or rank; secondary.
2. Subject to the authority or control of another.

n.

One that is subordinate.

tr.v. (sə·bôr dn-āt') **sub·or·di·nat·ed**, **sub·or·di·nat·ing**, **sub·or·di·nates**

1. To put in a lower or inferior rank or class.
2. To make subservient; subdue.

[Middle English *subordinat*, from Medieval Latin *subordinātus*, past participle of *subordināre*, to put in a lower rank : Latin *sub-*, *sub-* + Latin *ordināre*, to set in order (from *ordō*, *ordin-*, order; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

sub·or di·nate·ly *adv.*

sub·or di·nate·ness, **sub·or'di·na tion** (-nā shən) *n.*

sub·or di·na'tive (-nə'tīv) *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

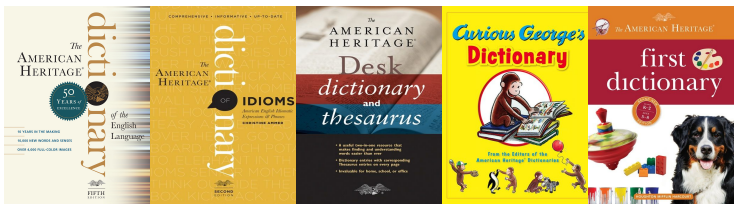
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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