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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**log·a·rithm**  (lô gə-řith'əm, lõg ə-)

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*n.*

*Mathematics*

The power to which a base, such as 10, must be raised to produce a given number. If  $n^x = a$ , the logarithm of  $a$ , with  $n$  as the base, is  $x$ ; symbolically,  $\log_n a = x$ . For example,  $10^3 = 1,000$ ; therefore,  $\log_{10} 1,000 = 3$ . The kinds most often used are the common logarithm (base 10), the natural logarithm (base  $e$ ), and the binary logarithm (base 2).

[New Latin *logarithmus* : Greek *logos*, reason, proportion; see **leg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Greek *arithmos*, number; see **ar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

**log'a-rith mic** (-řith mĭk), **log'a-rith mi-cal** (-mĭ-kəl) *adj.*

**log'a-rith mi-cal·ly** *adv.*

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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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