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aus·pice  (ô spîs)

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n. pl. aus·pi·ces (ô spî-sîz, -sēz')

1. also **auspices** Protection or support; patronage.
2. A sign indicative of future prospects; an omen: *Auspices for the venture seemed favorable.*
3. Observation of and divination from the actions of birds.

[Latin *auspiciu*m, bird divination, auspices, from *auspex*, *auspic*-, bird augur; see **awi-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

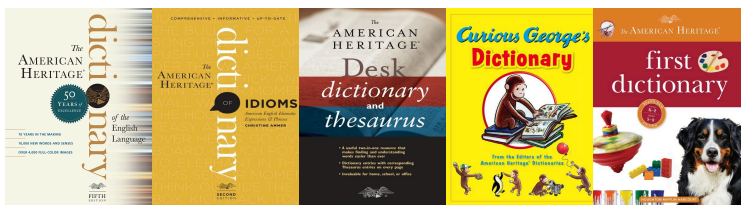
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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