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phan·tasm  (făn tăz'əm)

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n.

1. Something apparently seen but having no physical reality; a phantom or an apparition. Also called *phantasma*.
2. An illusory mental image. Also called *phantasma*.
3. In Platonic philosophy, objective reality as perceived and distorted by the five senses.

[Middle English *fantasme*, from Old French, from Latin *phantasma*, from Greek, from *phantazein*, to make visible, from *phantos*, visible, from *phainein*, to show; see **bhā**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

phan·tas mal (făn-tăz məl), **phan·tas mic** (-tăz mĭk) *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

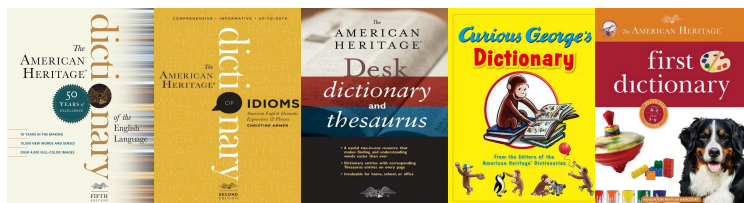
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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