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in·fant  (in fənt)

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n.

1. A child in the earliest period of life, especially before being able to walk.
2. *Law* A person under the legal age of majority; a minor.
3. A very young nonhuman mammal, especially a primate.

adj.

1. Of or being in infancy.
2. Intended for infants or young children.
3. Newly begun or formed: *an infant enterprise*.

[Middle English, from Old French *enfant*, from Latin *īnfāns*, *īnfant-*, from *īnfāns*, not able to speak, young : *in-*, not; see [in-](#)¹ + *fāns*, present participle of *fārī*, to speak; see [bhā-](#)² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

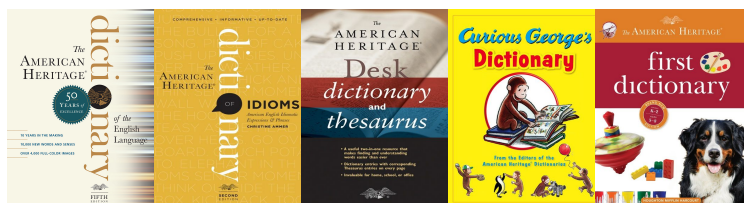
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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