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in·fa·mous  (in fə-məs)

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adj.

1. Having an exceedingly bad reputation; notorious: *an infamous outlaw*.
2. Causing or deserving severe public condemnation; heinous: "*No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury*" (*US Constitution, Amendment 5*).
3. *Law* Convicted of a crime, such as treason or felony, that carries a severe punishment. No longer in technical use.

[Middle English *infamis*, from Latin *īnfāmis* : *in-*, not; see [in-](#)¹ + *fāma*, renown, fame; see *bhā-*² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in fa·mous·ly *adv.*

in fa·mous·ness *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

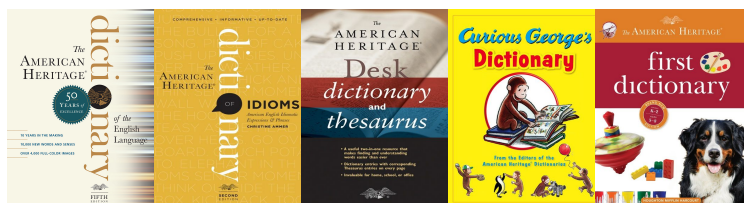
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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