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an·ti·phon  (ăn tə-fŏn')

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n.

1. A devotional composition sung responsively as part of a liturgy.

2.

a. A short liturgical text chanted or sung responsively preceding or following a psalm, psalm verse, or canticle.

b. Such a text formerly used as a response but now rendered independently.

3. A response; a reply: *"It would be truer ... to see [conservation] as an antiphon to the modernization of the 1950s and 1960s" (Raphael Samuel).*

[Late Latin *antiphōna*, sung responses; see [ANTHEM](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

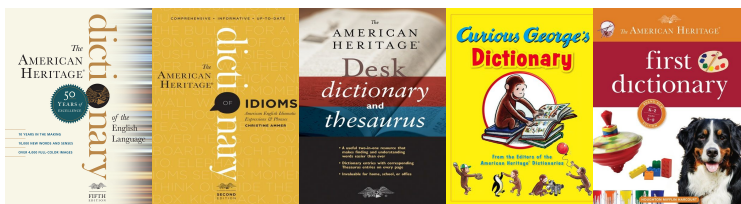
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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