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pro·fess  (prə-fēs , prō-)

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v. **pro·fessed**, **pro·fess·ing**, **pro·fess·es**

v.tr.

1. To affirm openly; declare or claim: "*a physics major [who] professes to be a stickler when it comes to data*" (Gina Maranto).
2. To make a pretense of; pretend: "*top officials who were deeply involved with the arms sales but later professed ignorance of them*" (David Johnston).
3. To practice as a profession or claim knowledge of: *profess medicine*.
4. To affirm belief in: *profess Catholicism*.
5. To receive into a religious order or congregation.

v.intr.

1. To make an open affirmation.
2. To take the vows of a religious order or congregation.

[Middle English *professen*, to take vows, from Old French *profes*, that has taken a religious vow (from Medieval Latin *professus*, avowed) and from Medieval Latin *professāre*, to administer a vow, both from Latin *professus*, past participle of *profitēri*, to affirm openly : *pro-*, forth; see [PRO-](#)¹ + *fatēri*, to acknowledge; see *bhā-*² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pro·fess ed·ly (-fēs ȳd-lē) *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

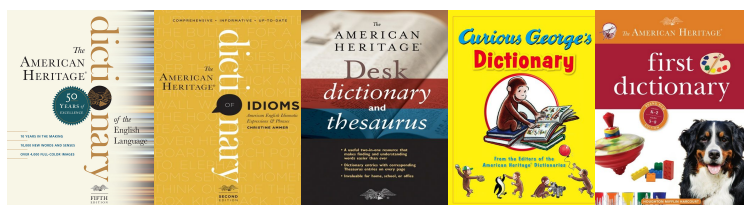
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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