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a·bet  (ə-bět)

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tr.v. **a·bet·ted**, **a·bet·ting**, **a·bets**

1. To approve, encourage, and support (an action or a plan of action); urge and help on.
2. To urge, encourage, or help (a person): *abetted the thief in robbing the bank.*

[Middle English *abetten*, from Old French *abeter*, to entice : *a-*, to (from Latin *ad-*; see [AD-](#)) + *beter*, to bait; see **bheid-** in the [Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

a·bet ment *n.*

a·bet tor, **a·bet ter** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

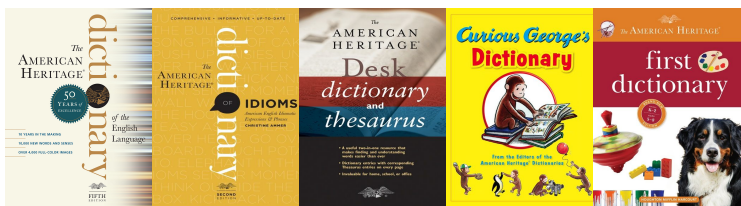
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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