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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**blan·ket**  (blăng kĭt)

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*n.*

1. A large piece of woven material used as a covering for warmth, especially on a bed.
2. A layer that covers or encloses: *a thick blanket of snow.*

*adj.*

1. Applying to or covering all conditions or instances: *a blanket insurance policy.*
2. Applying to or covering all members of a class: *blanket sanctions against human-rights violators.*

*tr.v.* **blan·ket·ed**, **blan·ket·ing**, **blan·kets**

1. To cover with or as if with a blanket: *leaves that blanket the ground.*
2. To cover so as to inhibit, suppress, or extinguish: *blanketed the grease fire with sand.*
3. To apply to generally and uniformly without exception: *high telephone service charges that blanketed our region.*

[Middle English, from Old French, an unbleached soft cloth, from *blanc*, white, of Germanic origin; see **bhel**-<sup>1</sup> [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

**blanket**

Tlingit blanket made of mountain goat wool with a fringe of cedar bark

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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:

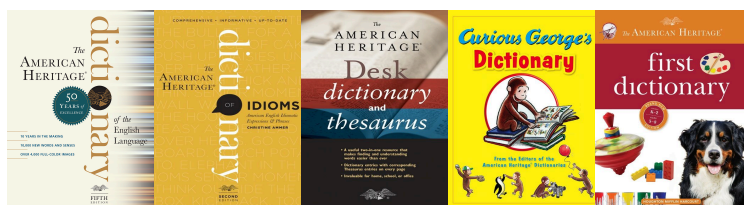
[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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