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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

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**phal·ae·nop·sis**  (făl'ə-nŏp sĭs)

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*n. pl.* **phalaenopsis** or **phal·ae·nop·ses** (-sēz')

Any of various epiphytic orchids of the genus *Phalaenopsis* of Southeast Asia and Australasia, widely cultivated as houseplants for their large variously colored flowers. Also called *moth orchid*.

[New Latin *genus name* : New Latin *phalaena*, moth (from Medieval Greek *phalaina*, variant of Greek *phallaina*, moth, from *phallaina*, moth); see **bhel**-<sup>1</sup> [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + [-OPSIS](#).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

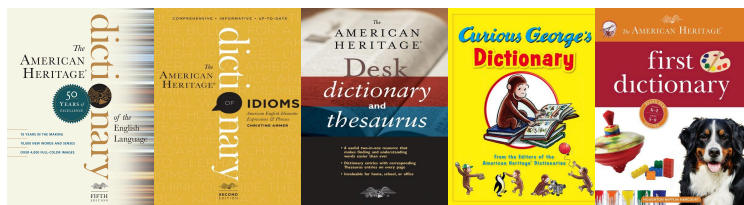
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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