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fur·tive  (fûr tĭv)

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adj.
Characterized by, acting with, or suggesting stealth or a desire to avoid discovery; surreptitious: "J.W. *from time to time gave her a furtive squeeze of the hand, but they never got to go out alone any more*" ([John Dos Passos](#)). See Synonyms at [secret](#).

[French *furtif*, from Old French, from Latin *fŭrtīvus*, from *fŭrtum*, theft, from *fŭr*, thief; see **bher-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

fur tive·ly *adv.*
fur tive·ness *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

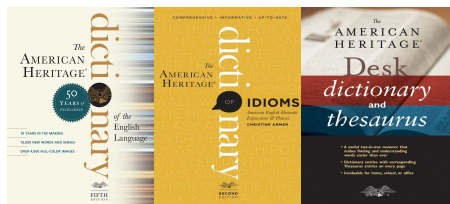
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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