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bur·ly  (bûr lē)

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adj. **bur·li·er**, **bur·li·est**

Heavy, strong, and muscular; husky. See Synonyms at [muscular](#).

[Middle English *burlich*, from Old English **borlic*, excellent; see **bher**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

bur li·ly *adv.*

bur li·ness *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

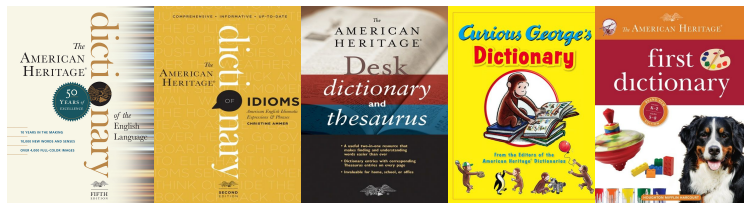
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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