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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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**ef·fer·ent**  (ěf ər-ənt)

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*adj.*

1. Directed away from a central organ or section.
2. Carrying impulses from the central nervous system to an effector.

*n.*

An efferent organ or body part, such as a blood vessel.

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[From Latin *efferēns*, *efferent-*, present participle of *efferre*, to carry off : *ex-*, *ex-* + *ferre*, to carry; see **bher-**<sup>1</sup> [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**ef fer·ent·ly** *adv.*

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

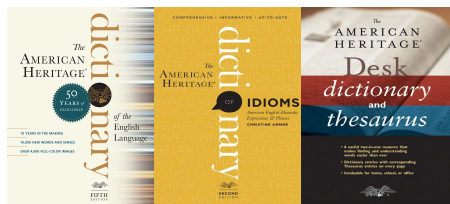
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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