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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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pre·fer  (prĭ-fŭr)

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tr.v. **pre·ferred**, **pre·fer·ring**, **pre·fers**

1. To choose or be in the habit of choosing as more desirable or as having more value: *prefers coffee to tea.*
2. *Law*
 - a. To give priority or precedence to (a creditor).
 - b. To present (a charge) against a defendant before a court: *prefer an indictment.*
 - c. To present (a case) to a court as ready for consideration: *prefer the case for trial.*
3. *Archaic* To recommend for advancement or appointment; promote.

[Middle English *preferren*, from Old French *preferer*, from Latin *praeferre* : *prae-*, pre- + *ferre*, to carry; see **bher-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

pre·fer *rer n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

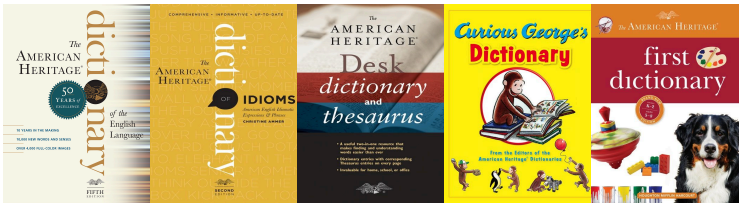
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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