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to·coph·er·ol  (tō-kŏf ə-rŏl', -rŏl')

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n.

Any of a group of closely related fat-soluble alcohols that are forms of vitamin E and that differ from the tocotrienols in having saturated side chains.

[Greek *tokos*, offspring, childbirth; see **tek-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots + Greek *pherein*, to bear, carry; see **bher-**¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots + **-ol**¹ (tocopherols being so called because they were discovered after it was observed that rats did not reproduce when fed a diet lacking these compounds).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

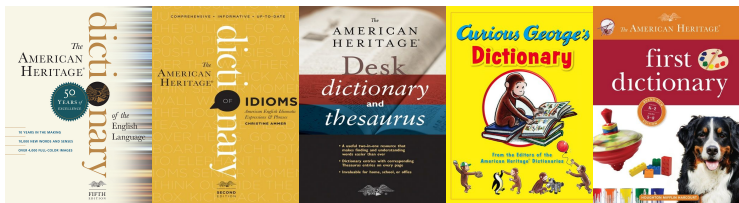
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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