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dictionary

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phys·ic  (fīz ɪk)

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n.

1. A medicine or drug, especially a cathartic.
2. *Archaic* The art or profession of medicine.

tr.v. **phys·icked, phys·ick·ing, phys·ics**

1. To act on as a cathartic.
2. To cure or heal.
3. To treat with or as if with medicine.

[Middle English *phisik*, from Old French *fisque*, medical science, natural science, from Latin, natural science, from Greek *phusikē*, feminine of *phusikos*, of nature, from *phusis*, nature; see **bheu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

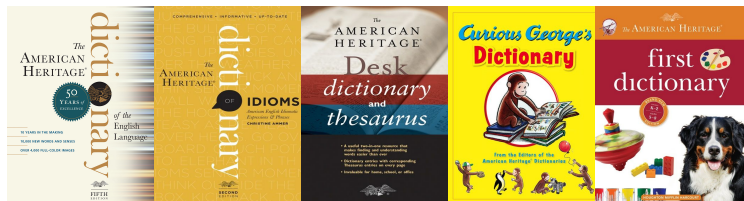
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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