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in·flu·en·za  (in'fl -ĕn zə)

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n.

1. An acute contagious viral infection of humans, characterized by inflammation of the respiratory tract and by fever, chills, muscular pain, and prostration. Also called *grippe*.
2. Any of various viral infections of domestic or wild animals, generally characterized by fever and respiratory involvement.

[Italian, from Medieval Latin *influentia*, influence (so called apparently from the belief that epidemics were due to the influence of the stars); see [INFLUENCE](#).]

in'flu·en zəl *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

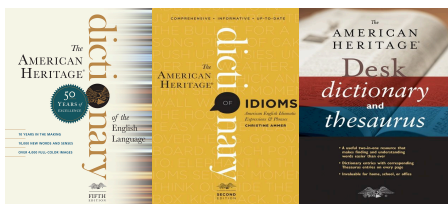
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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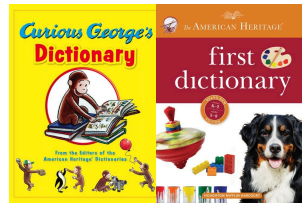
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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