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suf·fra·gan  (sŭf rə-gən, -jən)

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n. **Abbr. Suff. or Suffr.**

1. A bishop elected or appointed as an assistant to the bishop or ordinary of a diocese, having administrative and episcopal responsibilities but no jurisdictional functions.

2. A bishop regarded in position as subordinate to an archbishop or a metropolitan.

adj.

Of, being, or relating to a suffragan.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *suffrāgāneus*, voting, supporting, from Latin *suffrāgium*, support, right to vote, from *suffrāgārī*, to express support; see **bhreg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

suf fra·gan·ship *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

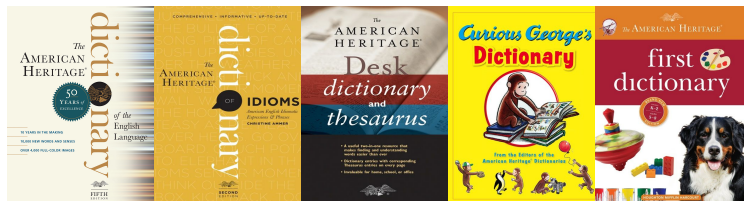
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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