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dictionary

of the
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de·te·ri·o·rate  (dĭ-tîr ē-ə-rāt')

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v. de·te·ri·o·rat·ed, de·te·ri·o·rat·ing, de·te·ri·o·rates

v.tr.

To diminish or impair in quality, character, or value: *Time and neglect had deteriorated the property.*

v.intr.

1. To grow worse; degenerate: *The weather deteriorated overnight.*

2. To weaken or disintegrate; decay: *The nation's highways are deteriorating at a rapid pace.*

[Late Latin *dēteriōrāre*, *dēteriōrāt-*, from Latin *dēterior*, worse; see **de-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

de·te'ri·o·ra tion *n.*

de·te ri·o·ra'tive *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

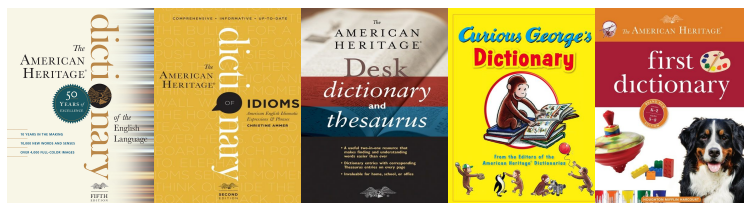
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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