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of the
English
Language



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tetch·y also **tech·y**  (tĕch ē)

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adj. **tetch·i·er**, **tetch·i·est** also **tech·i·er** or **tech·i·est**

Peevish; testy: "As a critic gets older, he or she usually grows more tetchy and limited in responses" (James Wolcott).

[Probably from Middle English *tache*, *teche*, blemish (influenced by [TOUCHY](#)), from Old French *tache*, *teche*, from Vulgar Latin **tacca*, from Gothic *taikns*, sign; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

tetch **i·ly** *adv.*

tetch **i·ness** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

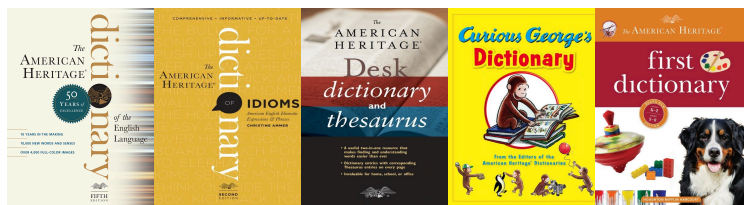
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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