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dit·to  (dĭt ō)

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n. pl. **dit·tos**

1. The same as stated above or before.
2. A duplicate; a copy.
3. A pair of small marks (") used to indicate that the word, phrase, or figure given above is to be repeated.

adv.

As before.

tr.v. **dit·toed, dit·to·ing, dit·tos**

To duplicate (a document, for example).

[Italian dialectal, past participle of Italian *dire*, to say, from Latin *dīcere*; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Word History: *Ditto* originally comes from the Latin word *dictus*, "having been said," the past participle of the verb *dīcere*, "to say." In Italian *dīcere* became *dire* and *dictus* became *detto*, or in the Tuscan dialect *ditto*. Italian *detto* or *ditto* meant what *said* does in legal English, as in "said property." Thus the word could be used in certain constructions to mean "the same as what has been said"; for example, having given the date *December 22*, one could use *26 detto* or *ditto* for *26 December*. The first recorded use of *ditto* in English occurs in such a construction in 1625.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

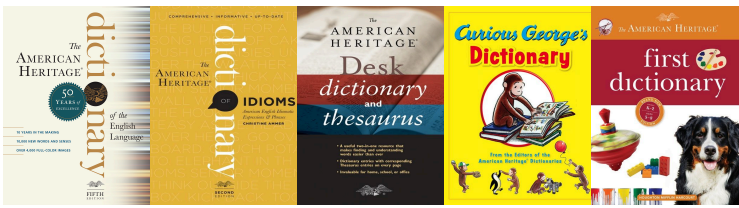
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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