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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**De·cem·ber**  (dĭ-sĕm bər)

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*n.*

The 12th month of the year in the Gregorian calendar. See Table at [calendar](#).

[Middle English *decembre*, from Old French, from Latin *December*, the tenth month of the Roman year, probably from \**decemmembris*, from \**decem-mēnsris* : *decem*, ten; see **dek** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *mēnsis*, month; see [MENSES](#).]

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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](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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