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de·cem·vir  (dĭ-sĕm vər)

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n. pl. **de·cem·virs** or **de·cem·vi·ri** (-və-rĭ')

1. One of a body of ten Roman magistrates, especially a member of one of two such bodies appointed in 451 and 450 BC to draw up a code of laws.
2. One of an authoritative body of ten.

[Middle English, from Latin, sing. of *decemvirī*, commission of ten men : *decem*, ten; see **dek** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *virī*, pl. of *vir*, man; see **wī-ro-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

de·cem vi·ral *adj.*

de·cem vi·rate (-vər-ĭt, -və-rāt') *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

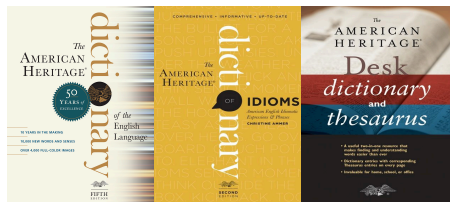
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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](#).

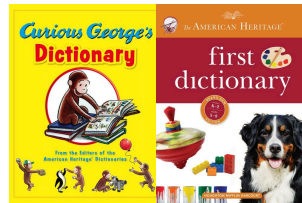
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