



The  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

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**oc·to·ge·nar·i·an**  (ŏk'tə-jə-nâr ē-ən)

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*adj.*

Being between 80 and 90 years of age.

*n.*

A person between 80 and 90 years of age.

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[From French *octogénaire*, from Latin *octōgēnārius*, containing eighty, from *octōgēnī*, eighty each, from *octōgintā*, eighty : *octō*, eight; see **oktō(u)** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-gintā*, ten times; see **dek** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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