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tame  (tām)

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adj. **tam·er**, **tam·est**

1. Brought from wildness into a domesticated or tractable state.
2. Naturally unafraid; not timid: "*The sea otter is gentle and relatively tame*" ([Peter Matthiessen](#)).
3. Submissive; docile; fawning: *tame obedience*.
4. Insipid; flat: *a tame birthday party*.
5. Sluggish; languid; inactive: *a tame river*.

tr.v. **tamed**, **tam·ing**, **tames**

1. To make tame; domesticate: *tame a wild horse*.
2. To subdue or curb: *tamed his explosive anger*.
3. To change from an uncontrolled or disorderly to a controlled state: *needed some gel to tame his hair*.

[Middle English, from Old English *tam*; see **dema-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

tam a·ble, **tame** a·ble *adj.*

tame ly *adv.*

tame ness *n.*

tam er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

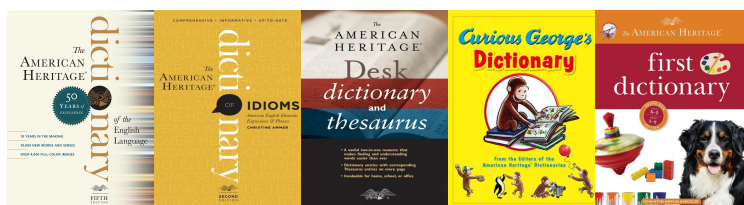
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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