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de·on·tol·o·gy  (dē'ōn-tōl ə-jē)

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n. pl. de·on·tol·o·gies

1. Ethical or moral theory concerned with duties and rights.
2. The doctrine that ethical status of an action lies in its adherence to a set of rules.

[Greek *deon*, *deont-*, obligation, necessity (from neuter present participle of *dein*, to need, lack; see **deu**-¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots) + [-LOGY](#).]

de·on'to·log i·cal (-tə-lōj ɪ-kəl) *adj.*

de·on'to·log i·cal·ly *adv.*

de'on·tol o·gist *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

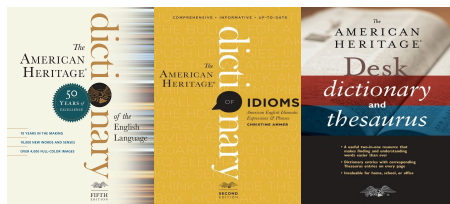
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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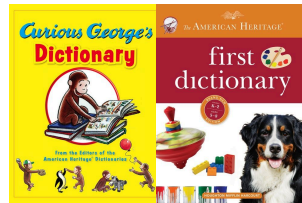
The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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