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em·bel·lish  (ěm-běł ish)

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tr.v. **em·bel·lished**, **em·bel·lish·ing**, **em·bel·lish·es**

1. To make beautiful, as by ornamentation; decorate.
2. To add ornamental or fictitious details to: *a fanciful account that embellishes the true story.*

[Middle English *emvelishen*, from Old French *embellir*, *embelliss-* : *en-*, causative pref.; see [EN](#)¹ + *bel*, beautiful (from Latin *bellus*; see [deu](#)² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

em·bel lish·er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

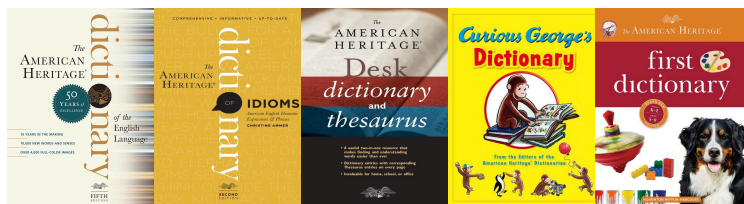
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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