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deb·o·nair also **deb·o·naire**  (děb'ə-nâr)

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adj.

1. Sophisticated; urbane.
2. Gracious and charming in a cheerful, carefree way.

[Middle English *debonaire*, gracious, kindly, from Old French, from *de bon aire*, of good lineage or disposition : *de*, of (from Latin *dē*; see [DE-](#)) + *bon*, *bonne*, good (from Latin *bonus*; see **deu-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *aire*, nest, family; see [AERIE](#).]

deb'o·nair *ly adv.*

deb'o·nair *ness n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

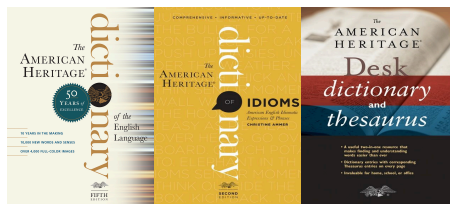
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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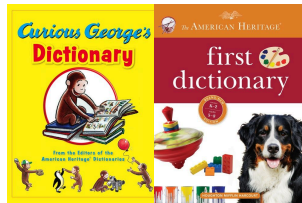
The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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