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feck·less  (fĕk lĭs)

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adj.

1. Careless and irresponsible: *"political prestidigitation designed to distract public attention from his feckless flouting of basic ethical principles"* (Doug Ireland).
2. Feeble or ineffective: *"Pickering's life was routinely threatened, and one feckless attempt had already been made to kidnap or kill him"* (Garry Wills).

[Scots *feck*, effect (alteration of [EFFECT](#)) + [-LESS](#).]

feck **less·ly** *adv.*

feck **less·ness** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

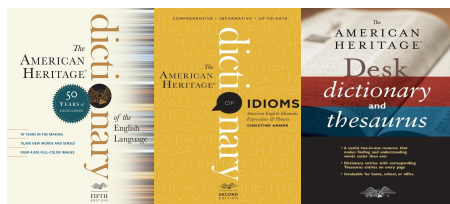
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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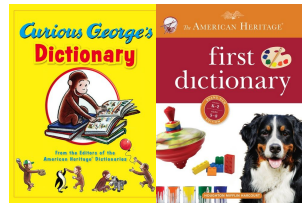
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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