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dictionary

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Language



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ef·fi·cient  (ĭ-fĭsh ənt)

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adj.

1. Acting or producing effectively with a minimum of waste, expense, or unnecessary effort: *an efficient builder; an efficient factory.*
2. Acting directly to produce an effect: *the efficient cause of the revolution.*
3. Causing less waste or requiring less effort than comparable devices or methods. Used in combination: *energy-efficient wind turbines; cost-efficient health care.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *efficiēns*, *efficient-*, present participle of *efficere*, to effect; see [EFFECT](#).]

ef·fi cient·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

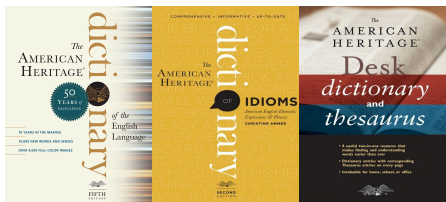
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

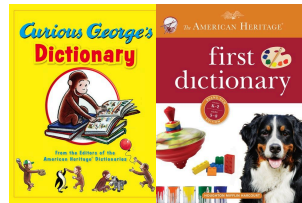
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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