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dictionary

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pro·fi·cient  (prə-ˈfīsh ənt)

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adj.
Having or marked by an advanced degree of competence, as in an art, vocation, profession, or branch of learning.
n.
A person who exhibits such competence; an expert.

[Latin *prōficiēns*, *prōficient-*, present participle of *prōficere*, to make progress; see [PROFIT](#).]

pro·fi cient·ly *adv.*

Synonyms: proficient, adept, skilled, skillful, accomplished, expert

These adjectives mean having or showing knowledge, ability, or skill, as in a profession or field of study. *Proficient* implies an advanced degree of competence acquired through training: *is proficient in Greek and Latin*.

Adept suggests a natural aptitude improved by practice: *became adept at cutting the fabric without using a pattern*.

Skilled implies sound, thorough competence and often mastery, as in an art, craft, or trade: *a skilled gymnast who won an Olympic medal*.

Skillful adds to *skilled* the idea of natural dexterity in performance or achievement: *is skillful in the use of the hand loom*.

Accomplished bears with it a sense of refinement after much training and practice: *an accomplished violinist who played the sonata flawlessly*.

Expert applies to one with consummate skill and command: *an expert negotiator who struck a deal between disputing factions*.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

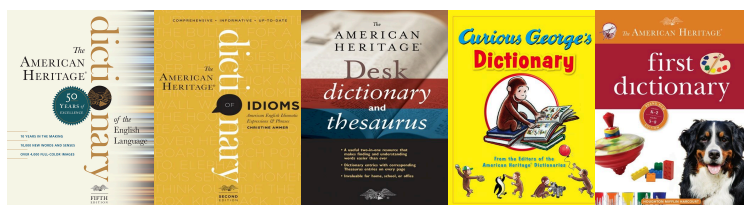
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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