



The
AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars, creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language. Annual surveys have gauged the acceptability of particular usages and grammatical constructions.

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hy·poth·e·cate  (hī-pōth ĭ-kāt')

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tr.v. **hy·poth·e·cat·ed**, **hy·poth·e·cat·ing**, **hy·poth·e·cates**

1. To pledge (property) as security or collateral without delivery of title or possession.
2. *Usage Problem* To hypothesize.

[Medieval Latin *hypothēcāre*, *hypothēcāt-*, from Latin *hypothēca*, pledge, deposit, from Greek *hupothēkē*, from *hupotithenai*, to give as a pledge, suppose; see [HYPOTHESIS](#).]

hy·poth·e·ca *tion n.*

hy·poth e·ca'tor *n.*

Usage Note: When used to mean "to formulate a hypothesis," *hypothesize* garners almost no acceptance from the Usage Panel. In our 2009 survey, 90 percent rejected it in the sentence *One man hypothesized that the students were joyless because they were no longer curious.*

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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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