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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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hy·poth·e·sis  (hī-pōth ĭ-sĭs)

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n. pl. **hy·poth·e·ses** (-sēz')

1. A tentative explanation for an observation, phenomenon, or scientific problem that can be tested by further investigation.
2. Something taken to be true for the purpose of argument or investigation; an assumption.
3. The antecedent of a conditional statement.

[Latin, subject for a speech, from Greek *hupothesis*, proposal, supposition, from *hupotithenai*, *hupothe-*, to suppose : *hupo-*, hypo- + *tithenai*, to place; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

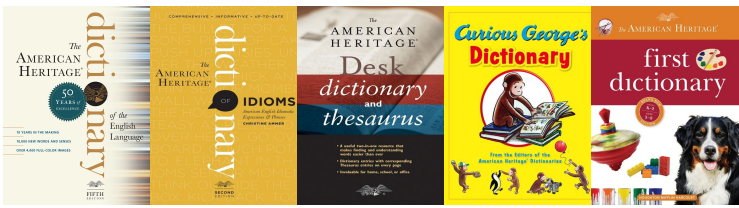
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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