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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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me·tath·e·sis  (mĭ-tăth ĭ-sĭs)

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n. pl. me·tath·e·ses (-sēz')

1. *Linguistics* Transposition within a word of letters, sounds, or syllables, as in the change from Old English *brid* to modern English *bird* or in the confusion of *modren* for *modern*.
2. *Chemistry* Double displacement.

[Late Latin, from Greek, from *metatithenai*, to transpose : *meta-*, *meta-* + *tithenai*, to place; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

met'a·thet ic (mět'ə-thět ĭk), **met'a·thet i·cal** *adj.*

met'a·thet'i·cal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

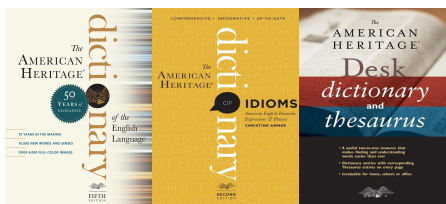
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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