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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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pros·the·sis  (prŏs-thē sĭs)

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n. pl. **pros·the·ses** (-sēz)

1. An artificial device used to replace a missing body part, such as a limb, tooth, eye, or heart valve.
2. Replacement of a missing body part with such a device.
3. *Linguistics* Prothesis.

[Greek, addition, from *prostithenai*, *prothe-*, to add : *pros-*, *pros-* + *tithenai*, to put; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

prosthesis

athlete wearing a prosthetic leg used for running

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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:

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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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