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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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proth·e·sis  (prōth ĭ-sĭs)

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n. pl. proth·e·ses (-sēz')

1. *Linguistics* The addition of a phoneme or syllable at the beginning of a word, as in Spanish *espina*, "thorn," from Latin *spina*.

2. *Eastern Orthodox Church*

a. The preparation of the bread and wine for the Eucharist.

b. The table used for this preparation.

[Greek, prefixing, from *protithenai*, *prothe-*, to put before : *pro-*, before; see [PRO-](#)² + *tithenai*, to put; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pro·thet ic (prō-thĕt ĭk) *adj.*

pro·thet i·cal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

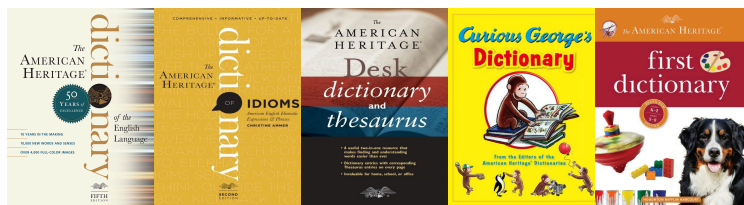
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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