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Py·thon¹ 🔊 (pī thŏn', -thən)

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n.

1. *Greek Mythology* A dragon or serpent that was the tutelary demon of the oracular cult at Delphi until killed and expropriated by Apollo.

2. **python**

a. A soothsaying spirit or demon.

b. A person possessed by such a spirit.

[Latin *Pŷthōn*, from Greek *Pŷthōn*; see **dheub-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Py·thon² 🔊 (pī thŏn')

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py·thon 🔊 (pī thŏn', -thən)

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n.

Any of various nonvenomous snakes of the family Pythonidae, found chiefly in Asia, Africa, and Australia, that coil around and asphyxiate their prey. Some pythons can attain lengths of 8 meters (26 feet) or more.

[Probably French, from Latin *Pŷthōn*, mythical serpent killed by Apollo near Delphi; see [PYTHON](#)¹.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

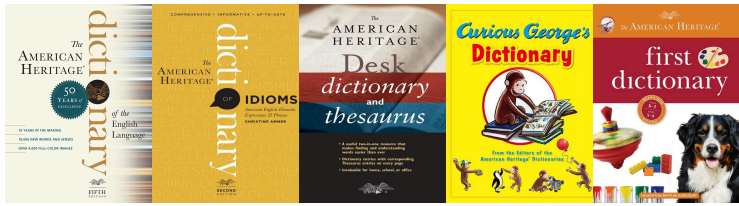
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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