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dictionary

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Language



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daugh·ter  (dô tər)

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n.

1. One's female child.
2. A female descendant.
3. A woman considered as if in a relationship of child to parent: *a daughter of the nation*.
4. One that is personified or regarded as a female descendant: "*Culturally Japan is a daughter of Chinese civilization*" (Edwin O. Reischauer).
5. The immediate product of the radioactive decay of an element.

adj.

1. Possessing the characteristics of a daughter; having the relationship of a daughter.
2. Of or relating to a cell, organelle, or other structure produced by division or replication: *daughter cell*; *daughter DNA*.
3. Produced by or resulting from the decay of a radioactive element: *daughter atom*; *daughter nuclide*.

[Middle English *doughter*, from Old English *dohtor*; see **dhugater-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

daugh ter·ly *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

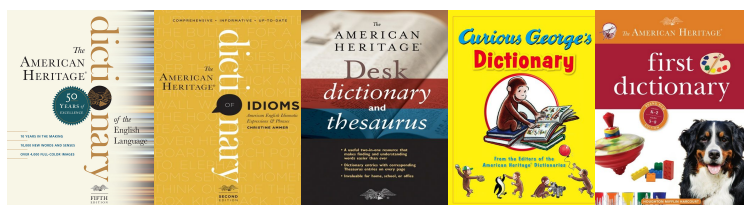
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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