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plight ¹ (plīt)

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n.

A situation, especially a bad or unfortunate one. See Synonyms at [predicament](#).

[Middle English, alteration (influenced by *plight*, risky promise or pledge) of *plit*, fold, wrinkle, situation, from Anglo-Norman, from Latin *plicitum*, neuter past participle of *plicāre*, to fold; see **plek-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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plight ² (plīt)

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tr.v. **plight·ed**, **plight·ing**, **plights**

1. To promise or bind by a solemn pledge, especially to betroth.

2. To give or pledge (one's word or oath, for example).

n.

A solemn pledge, as of faith.

Idiom:

plight (one's) troth

1. To become engaged to marry.

2. To give one's solemn oath.

[Middle English *plighthen*, from Old English *plihtan*, to endanger, put at risk, from *pliht*, danger, risk; see **dleg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

plight *er n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

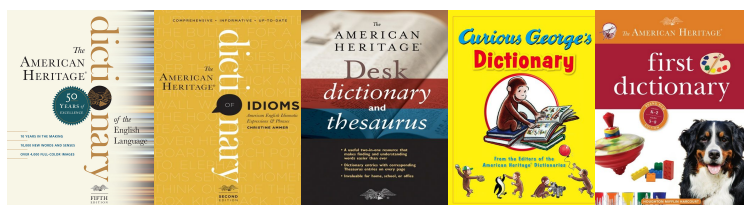
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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