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dow·er  (dou ər)

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n.

1. Law

a. A spouse's legal entitlement, while alive, to a share of a deceased spouse's real estate or other property.

b. The part or interest of a deceased man's real estate formerly allotted by law to his widow for her lifetime.

2. A natural endowment or gift; a dowry.

tr.v. **dow·ered, dow·er·ing, dow·ers**

To give a dowry to; endow.

[Middle English *douere*, from Old French *douaire*, from Medieval Latin *dōtārium*, *dōārium*, from Latin *dōs*, *dōt-*, dowry; see **dō-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

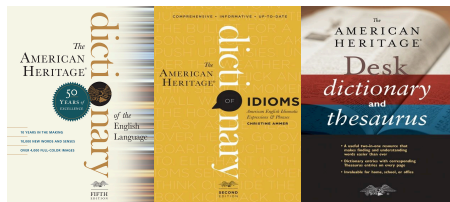
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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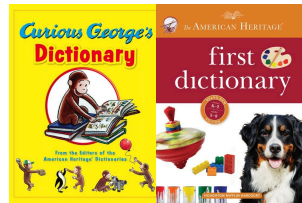


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