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an·ec·dote  (ăn ĭk-dōt')

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n.

1. A short account of an interesting or humorous incident.
2. *pl.* **an·ec·dotes** or **an·ec·do·ta** (-dō tə) Secret or hitherto undivulged particulars of history or biography.

[French, from Greek *anekdota*, unpublished items : *an-*, not; see [A-](#)¹ + *ekdota*, neuter pl. of *ekdotos*, published (from *ekdidonai*, *ekdo-*, to publish : *ek-*, out; see [ECTO-](#) + *didonai*, to give; see **dō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

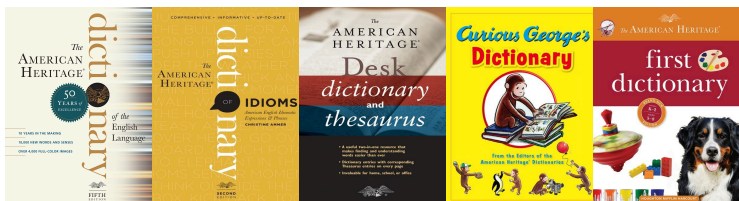
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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