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bi-¹ or **bin-**

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pref.

1.

a. Two: *biform*.

b. Both: *binaural*.

c. Both sides, parts, or directions: *biconcave*.

2.

a. Occurring at intervals of two: *bicentennial*.

b. *Usage Problem* Occurring twice during: *biweekly*.

3.

a. Containing twice the proportion of a specified chemical element or group necessary for stability: *bicarbonate*.

b. Containing two chemical atoms, radicals, or groups: *biphenyl*.

[Latin *bis*, *bi-*, twice, and *bīnī*, two by two; see **dwo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Usage Note: The prefix *bi-*, when modifying an adverb of time, means that the time interval should be doubled. Thus a *bimonthly* meeting takes place once every two months, and a *biweekly* meeting once every two weeks. The prefix *semi-*, in the same context, means that the interval of time should be halved. Thus, a *semimonthly* meeting is held twice a month (that is, every half month), and a *semiweekly* meeting twice a week. Words with the prefix *bi-* and *semi-* are often confused, so expressions such as *every two months* or *twice a month* are often preferable in order to avoid misinterpretation.

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bi-²

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Variant of [bio-](#).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

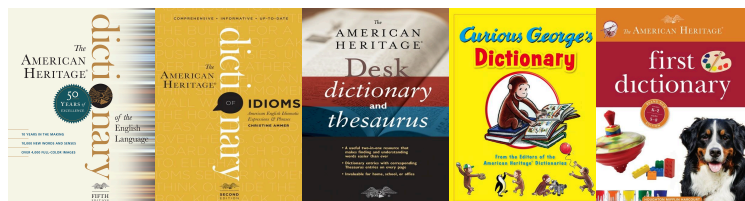
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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