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English
Language



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bis·tort  (bĭs tōrt')

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n.

Any of several plants of the family Polygonaceae, especially the Eurasian perennial herb *Persicaria bistorta* (syn. *Polygonum bistorta*), having spikes of usually pink flowers and twisted roots used as an astringent in folk medicine.

[French *bistorte*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin **bistorta* : Latin *bis*, twice; see [BIS](#) + *torta*, past participle of *torquēre*, to twist; see [TORQUE](#)¹.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

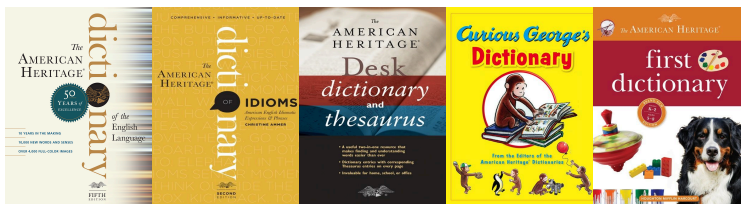
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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