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Language



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twig¹  (twĭg)

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n.

1. A young shoot representing the current season's growth of a woody plant.
2. Any small, leafless branch of a woody plant.

[Middle English, from Old English *twigge*; see **dwo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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twig²  (twĭg)

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v. **twigged, twig-ging, twigs**

Chiefly British

v.tr.

1. To observe or notice.
2. To understand or figure out: "*The layman has twigged what the strategist twigged almost two decades ago*" (*Manchester Guardian Weekly*).

v.intr.

To be or become aware of the situation; understand: "*As Europe is now twigging, the best breeding ground for innovators who know how to do business is often big, competitive companies*" (*Economist*).

[Perhaps from Irish Gaelic *tuig*-, stem of *tuigim*, I understand, from Old Irish *tuicim*.]

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twig³  (twĭg)

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n.

Archaic

The current style; the fashion.

[Origin unknown.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

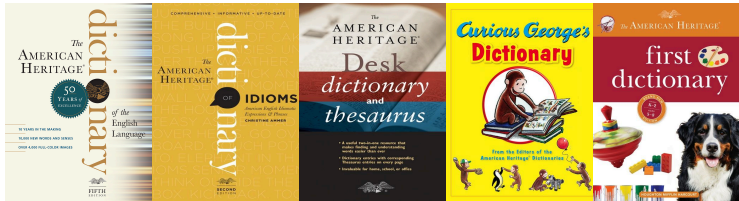
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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