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de·us ex ma·chi-na (dā əs ěks mä kə-nə, -nä', māk ə-nə)

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n.

1. In Greek and Roman drama, a god lowered by stage machinery to resolve a plot or extricate the protagonist from a difficult situation.
2. An unexpected, artificial, or improbable character, device, or event introduced suddenly in a work of fiction or drama to resolve a situation or untangle a plot.
3. A person or event that provides a sudden and unexpected solution to a difficulty.

[New Latin *deus ex māchinā* : Latin *deus*, god; see **dyeu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Latin *ex*, from; see **eghs** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Latin *māchinā*, ablative of *māchina*, machine; see [MACHINE](#). (Translation of Greek *theos apo mēkhanēs*.)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

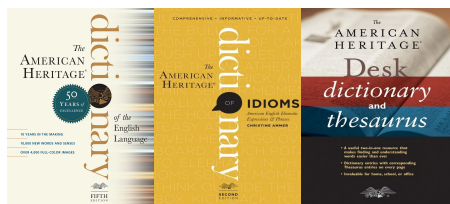
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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