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ex·ter·nal  (ĭk-stûr nəl)

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adj.

1. Relating to, existing on, or connected with the outside or an outer part; exterior.
2. Suitable for application to the outside: *external paints*.
3. Existing independently of the mind.
4. Acting or coming from the outside: *external pressures*.
5. Of or relating chiefly to outward appearance; superficial: "*An internal sense of righteousness dwindles into an external concern for reputation*" (A.R. Gurney, Jr.)
6. Of or relating to foreign affairs or foreign countries: *the country's minister of external affairs*.

n.

1. An exterior part or surface.
2. **externals**
 - a. Outer circumstances.
 - b. Outward appearances: *was charming as far as the externals went*.

[Middle English, from Latin *externus*, outward, from *exter*; see **eghs** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ex·ter nal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

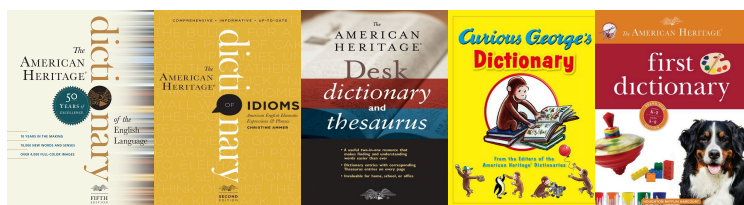
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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