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Con·sta·ble  (kŭn stə-bəl, kŏn -), **John** 1776-1837.

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British landscape painter whose use of broken color influenced later French painters. *The Hay Wain* (1821) is his best-known work.

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con·sta·ble  (kŏn stə-bəl, kŭn -)

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n.

1. A peace officer with less authority and smaller jurisdiction than a sheriff, empowered to serve writs and warrants and make arrests.
2. A medieval officer of high rank, usually serving as military commander in the absence of a monarch.
3. The governor of a royal castle.
4. *Chiefly British* A police officer.

[Middle English, from Old French *conestable*, from Late Latin *comes stabulī*, officer of the stable : Latin *comes*, officer, companion; see **ei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Latin *stabulī*, genitive of *stabulum*, stable; see **stā-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

con sta·ble·ship' *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

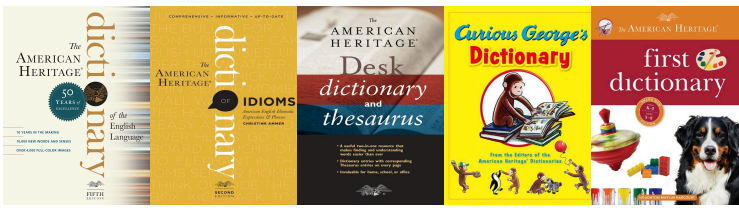
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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