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Ma·ha·ya·na  (mä'hə-yä nə)

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n.

One of the major schools of Buddhism, traditionally active in much of Nepal, Tibet, and East Asia and emphasizing compassion and the possibility of universal salvation.

[Sanskrit *Mahāyānam*, greater vehicle (as contrasted with *Hīnayānam*, lesser vehicle; see [HINAYANA](#)) : *mahā-*, great; see **meg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *yānam*, vehicle; see **ei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Ma'ha·ya *nist n.*

Ma'ha·ya·nis *tic adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

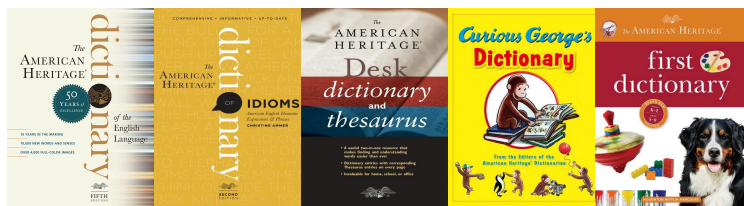
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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