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hi·er·at·ic  (hī'ə-răt ĭk, hī-răt -)

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- adj.*
1. Of or associated with sacred persons or offices; sacerdotal.
 2. Constituting or relating to a simplified cursive style of Egyptian hieroglyphics, used in both sacred and secular writings.
 3. Extremely formal or stylized, as in a work of art.

[Latin *hierāticus*, from Greek *hierātikos*, from *hierāteia*, priesthood, from *hierāsthai*, to be a priest, from *hiereus*, priest, from *hieros*, holy; see **eis-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

hi'er-at i-cal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

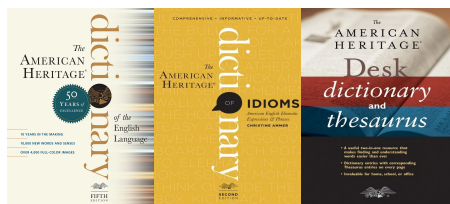
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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