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in·te·ri·or  (ĭn-tîr ē-ər)

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adj.

1. Of, relating to, or located on the inside; inner.
2. Of or relating to one's mental or spiritual being: *"She thinks she has no soul, no interior life, but the truth is that she has no access to it" (David Denby).*
3. Situated away from a coast or border; inland.

n.

1. The internal portion or area.
2. One's mental or spiritual life.
3. The inland part of a political or geographic entity.
4. The internal affairs of a country or nation.
5. A representation of the inside of a building or room, as in a photograph.

[Ultimately Latin, comparative *adj.* of *inter*, between; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·te'ri·or i·ty (-ôr ĭ-tē, -ôr -) *n.*

in·te ri·or·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

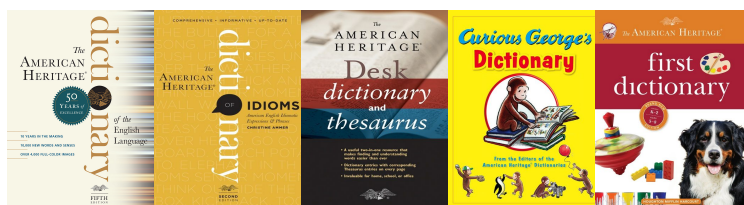
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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