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es·o·ter·ic  (ěs'ə-těr ĭk)

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- adj.*
1.
 - a. Intended for or understood by only a small group, especially one with specialized knowledge or interests: *an esoteric philosophical doctrine*. See Synonyms at [mysterious](#).
 - b. Relating to or being a small group with specialized knowledge or interests: *an esoteric circle*.
 2. Not known by or suitable for the public; private: *Few understood the celebrity's esoteric side*.
- n.*
1. One that is esoteric.
 2. **esoterics** Esoteric matters; esoterica: "*The course ... is anything but an exercise in ivory tower esoterics*" (Sharon Waxman).

[Greek *esōterikos*, from *esōterō*, comparative of *esō*, within; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

es'ō-ter i-cal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

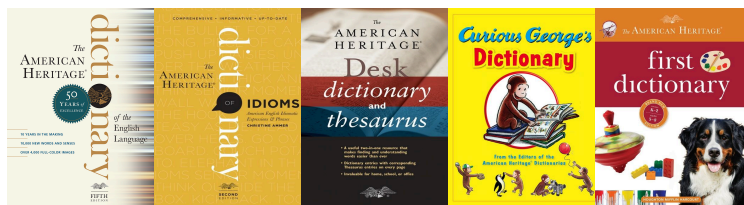
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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