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o·rig·i·nal  (ə-rĭj ə-nəl)

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adj.

1. Preceding all others in time; first: *Who played the original Dracula?*

2.

a. Not derived from something else; fresh and unusual: *an original play, not an adaptation.*

b. Showing a marked departure from previous practice; new: *a truly original approach.* See Synonyms at [new](#).

3. Productive of new things or new ideas; inventive: *an original mind.*

4. Being the source from which a copy, reproduction, or translation is made.

n.

1. A first form or model from which others are made or developed: *Later versions of the car retained key features of the original.*

2.

a. An authentic work of art: *bought an original, not a print.*

b. A work that has been composed firsthand or used to make a copy, reproduction, or translation: *kept the original but sent a photocopy to his publisher.*

3.

a. A person with a creative or unusual personality.

b. A person who is appealingly odd or curious; a character.

4. *Archaic* The source from which something arises; an originator.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *orīginālis*, from *orīgō*, *orīgin-*, source; see [ORIGIN](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

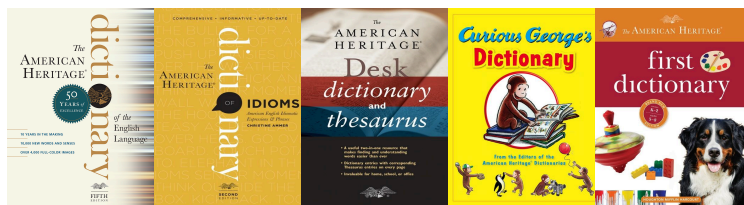
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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