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im·prove  (ĩm-pr v)

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v. **im·proved**, **im·prov·ing**, **im·proves**

v.tr.

1. To raise to a more desirable or more excellent quality or condition; make better: *Exercise can improve your health.*

2. To increase the productivity or value of (land or property): *improved the house by adding a bathroom.*

v.intr.

1. To become better: *Economic conditions are improving.*

2. To make beneficial additions or changes: *You can improve on the translation of that text.*

[Middle English *improwen*, to enclose land for cultivation, from Anglo-Norman *emprouwer*, to turn to profit : Old French *en-*, causative pref. (from Latin *in-*; see [IN-](#)²) + Old French *prou*, profit (from Late Latin *prōde*, advantageous; see [PROUD](#)).]

im·prov a·ble *adj.*

im·prov a·bly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

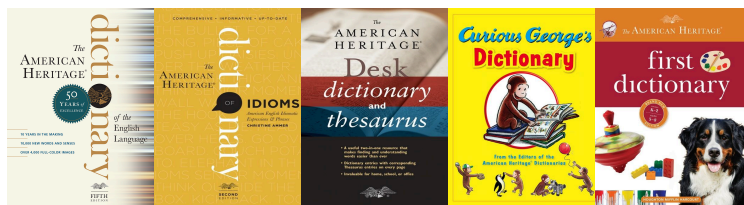
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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