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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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**un-kempt**  (ŭn-kĕmpt )

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adj.

1. Not combed: *unkempt hair*.

2. Disorderly or untidy in appearance: *an unkempt vagabond; an unkempt garden*. See Synonyms at [sloppy](#).

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[Middle English *unkemd* : *un-*, not; see [UN](#)<sup>1</sup> + *kembed*, past participle of *kemben*, to comb (from Old English *cemban*; see [gembh-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

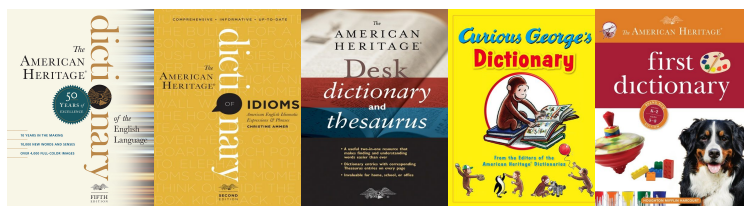
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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