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dictionary

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Language



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gen·er·ate  (jĕn ə-rāt')

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tr.v. **gen·er·at·ed**, **gen·er·at·ing**, **gen·er·ates**

1.

a. To bring into being; give rise to: *generate a discussion.*

b. To produce as a result of a chemical or physical process: *generate heat.*

2. To engender (offspring); procreate.

3. *Mathematics* To form (a geometric figure) by describing a curve or surface.

4. *Computers* To produce (a program) by instructing a computer to follow given parameters with a skeleton program.

5. *Linguistics* In generative grammar, to construct (a sentence, for example) through the successive application of linguistic operations, rules, and conditions.

[Latin *generāre*, *generāt-*, to produce, from *genus*, *gener-*, birth; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

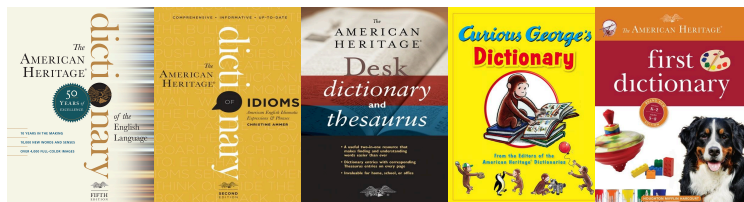
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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