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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**ge·ne·al·o·gy**  (jě'nē-ŏl ə-jē, -ăl -, jěn'ē-)

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*n. pl.* **ge·ne·al·o·gies**

1. A record or table of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree.
2. Direct descent from an ancestor; lineage or pedigree.
3. The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories.

[Middle English *genealogie*, from Old French, from Late Latin *geneālogia*, from Greek *geneālogiā* : *geneā*, family; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-logiā*, -logy.]

**ge'ne·a·log i·cal** (-ə-lŏj ɪ-kəl) *adj.*

**ge'ne·a·log i·cal·ly** *adv.*

**ge'ne·al o·gist** *n.*

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

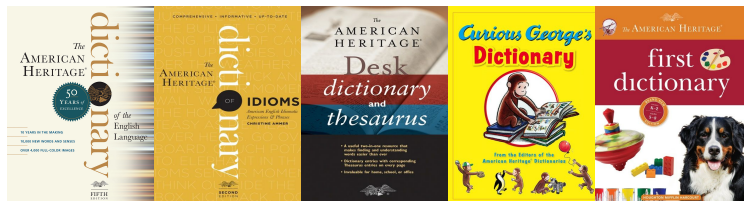
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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