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dictionary

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pro·gen·i·tor  (prō-jěŋ ĭ-tər)

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n.

1. A direct ancestor. See Synonyms at [ancestor](#).
2. An originator of a line of descent; a precursor.
3. An originator; a founder: *progenitors of the new music*.

[Middle English *progenitour*, from Old French *progeniteur*, from Latin *prōgenitor*, from *prōgenitus*, past participle of *prōgignere*, to beget : *prō-*, forward; see [PRO-](#)¹ + *gignere*, *gen-*, to beget; see **genə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

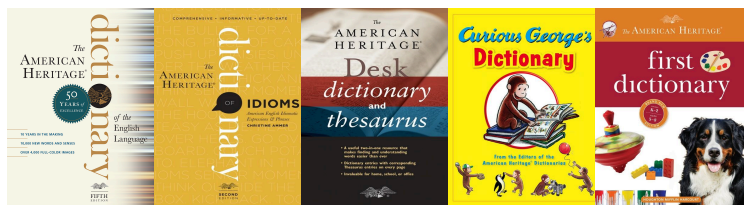
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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