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gen·u·flect  (jĕn yə-flĕkt')

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intr.v. **gen·u·flect·ed**, **gen·u·flect·ing**, **gen·u·flects**

1. To bend the knee or touch one knee to the floor or ground, as in worship.
2. To be servilely respectful or deferential; grovel.

[Late Latin *genūflectere* : Latin *genū*, knee; see **genu-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Latin *flectere*, to bend.]

gen'·u·flec tion (-flĕk shən) *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

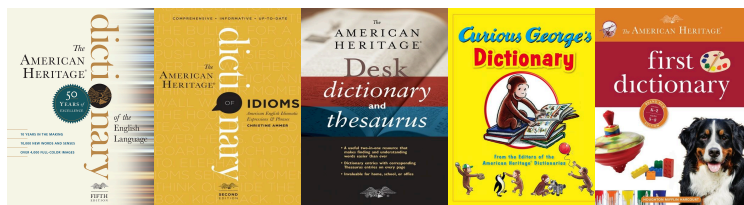
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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