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or·thog·o·nal  (ôr-thŏg ə-nəl)

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adj.

1. Relating to or composed of right angles.

2. *Mathematics*

a. Of or relating to a matrix whose transpose equals its inverse.

b. Of or relating to a linear transformation that preserves the length of vectors.

3. Very different or unrelated; sharply divergent: "*Radical Islamists are ultimately seeking to create something orthogonal to our model of democracy*" (Richard A. Clarke).

[From Greek *orthogōnios* : *ortho-*, *ortho-* + *gōniā*, angle; see **genu-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

or·thog·o·nal i·ty (-năl ă-tē) *n.*

or·thog o·nal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

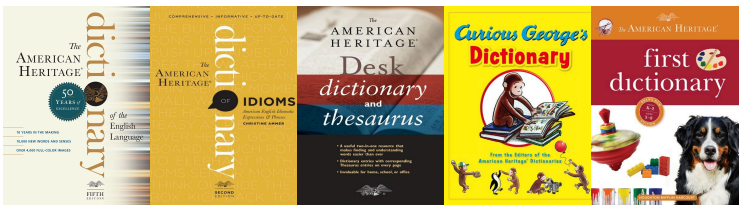
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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