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fore·go¹  (fôr-gō)

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tr.v. **fore·went** (-wěnt), **fore·gone** (-gôn , -gŏn), **fore·go·ing**, **fore·goes** (-gōz)

To precede, as in time or place. See Usage Note at [forgo](#).

[Middle English *foregon*, from Old English *foregān* : *fore-*, *fore-* + *gān*, *go*; see **ghē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

fore·go *er n.*

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fore·go²  (fôr-gō)

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v.

Variant of [forgo](#).

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for·go also **fore·go**  (fôr-gō)

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tr.v. **for·went** (-wěnt), **for·gone** (-gôn , -gŏn), **for·go·ing**, **for·goes**

To abstain from; relinquish: *unwilling to forgo dessert*.

[Middle English *forgon*, from Old English *forgān*, *go away*, *forgo* : *for-*, *for-* + *gān*, *to go*; see **ghē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

for·go *er n.*

Usage Note: The verb *forgo*, meaning "to abstain from, do without," has *forego* as an acceptable variant. Thus, one can *forgo* or *forego* dessert, though the spelling without the *e* is far more common and is preferred in most dictionaries. *Forego* also exists as a separate word meaning "to go before, either in place or time," as in *The essential points have been laid out in the foregoing pages*. The two words have historically been spelled differently because they incorporate different prefixes: The *fore-* of *forego* is the same prefix (meaning "in front, ahead, before") found in *forefather*, *forehead*, and *foreword*, while the *for-* of *forgo* is akin to the *for-* in *forget*, *forlorn*, and *forsake* and usually denotes loss or removal.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

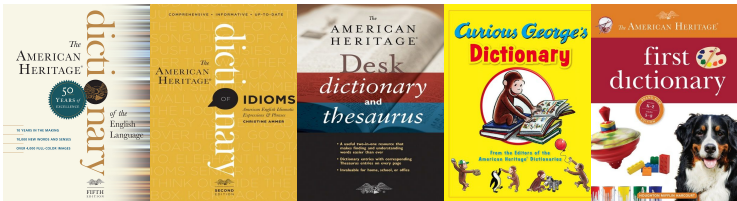
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

Indo-European Roots

Semitic Roots

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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