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hi·ber·nate  (hī bər-nāt')

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intr.v. **hi·ber·nat·ed**, **hi·ber·nat·ing**, **hi·ber·nates**

1. To be in a dormant or torpid state during a cold period, especially during the winter.
2. To be in an inactive or dormant state or period: *"In Lawrenceville people hibernated and life passed them by"* (Jacqueline Susann).

[Latin *hībernāre*, *hībernāt-*, to winter, from *hībernus*, relating to winter; see **ghei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

hi'ber·na tion *n.*

hi ber·na'tor *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

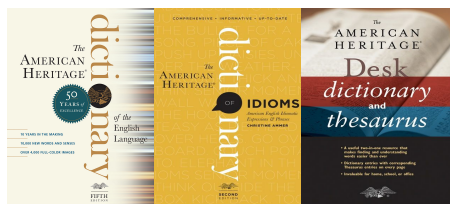
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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