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pris·on  (prīz ən)

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- n.*
1. A place for the confinement and punishment of persons convicted of crimes, especially felonies.
 2. A state of imprisonment or captivity: *years spent in prison.*
 3. A place or condition of confinement or restriction: *felt his job had been a prison.*
- tr.v. pris·oned, pris·on·ing, pris·ons*
To confine in or as if in a prison; imprison.

[Middle English, from Old French, alteration (influenced by Old French *pris*, taken) of Latin *prēnsiō*, *prēnsiōn*-, a seizing, from **prehēnsiō*, from *prehēnsus*, past participle of *prehendere*, to seize; see **ghend-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

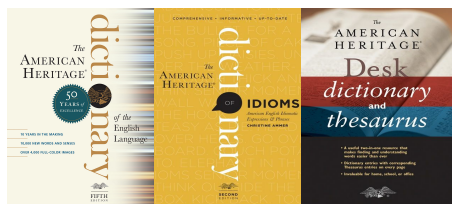
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

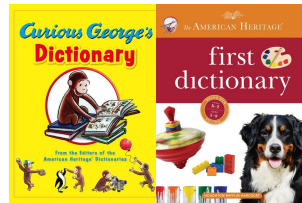
[Semitic Roots](#)

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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