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com·pre·hend  (kŏm'prĭ-hĕnd)

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tr.v. **com·pre·hend·ed**, **com·pre·hend·ing**, **com·pre·hends**

1. To take in the meaning, nature, or importance of; grasp. See Synonyms at [understand](#).
2. To have as part of something larger; encompass or include. See Synonyms at [include](#).

[Middle English *comprehenden*, from Latin *comprehendere* : *com-*, *com-* + *prehendere*, to grasp; see **ghend-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

com'pre·hend i·ble *adj.*

com'pre·hend ing·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

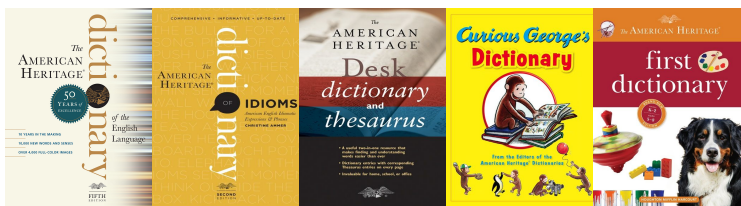
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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