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be·get  (bĭ-gĕt)

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tr.v. **be·got** (-gŏt), **be·got·ten** (-gŏt n) or **be·got**, **be·get·ting**, **be·gets**

1. To produce (offspring) by sexual reproduction. Used especially of a man.
2. To cause to exist or occur; produce: *Violence begets more violence.*

[Middle English *biyeten*, *bigeten*, from Old English *begetan*; see **ghend-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

be·get *ter n.*

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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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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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