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dictionary

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Language



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pre·hen·sile  (prē-hĕn səl, -sīl')

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adj.

1. Able to seize, grasp, or hold, especially by wrapping around an object: *a monkey's prehensile tail.*
2. Having a keen intellect or powerful memory: *a prehensile mind.*

[French *préhensile*, from Latin *prehēnsus*, past participle of *prehendere*, to grasp; see **ghend-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pre'hen-sil i-ty (-sīl ĭ-tē) *n.*



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prehensile

prehensile tail of an opossum

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

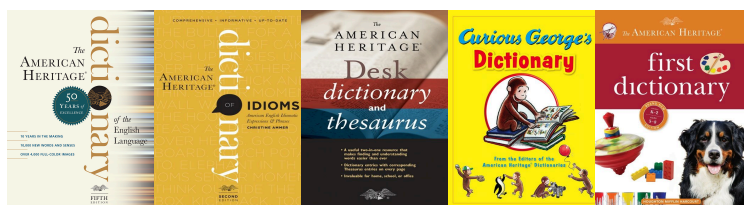
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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