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mis·pri·sion¹  (mĭs-prĭzh ən)

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n.

1. Neglect in performing the duties of public office.

2. *Law* The criminal offense of concealing, or neglecting to report or prevent, a felony or act of treason one had knowledge of but did not participate in: *misprision of a felony*; *misprision of treason*.

3. Seditious conduct.

4.

a. Misunderstanding or misinterpretation: "*to show that everything once viewed as truth and light is no more than shadow and misprision*" (Edward Rothstein).

b. A misreading or misinterpretation of a text, especially as a means of distinguishing oneself from a literary predecessor.

[Middle English, illegal act on the part of a public official, from Anglo-Norman, mistake, misdeed, variant of Old French *mesprison*, from *mespris*, past participle of *mesprendre*, to make a mistake : *mes-*, wrongly; see [MIS-](#)¹ + *prendre*, to take, seize (from Latin *prehendere*, *prēndere*; see [ghend-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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mis·pri·sion²  (mĭs-prĭzh ən)

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n.

Contempt; disdain.

[*mispris(e)* (variant of [MISPRIZE](#)) + [-ION](#).]

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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:

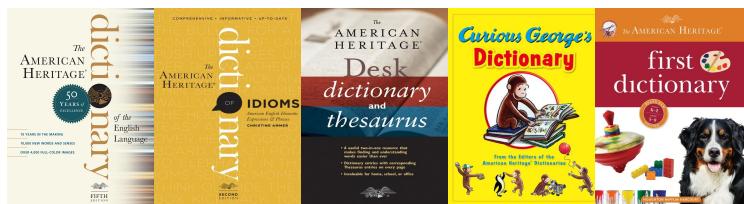
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available

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