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cat·a·chre·sis  (kăt'ə-krē sīs)

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n. pl. cat·a·chre·ses (-sēz)

1. The misapplication of a word or phrase, as the use of *blatant* to mean "flagrant."
2. The use of a strained figure of speech, such as a mixed metaphor.

[Latin *catachrēsis*, improper use of a word, from Greek *katachrēsis*, excessive use, from *katachrēsthai*, to misuse : *kata-*, completely; see [CATA-](#) + *chrēsthai*, to use; see **gher-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cat'a·chres tic (-krēs tīk), **cat'a·chres ti·cal** (-tī-kəl) *adj.*
cat'a·chres ti·cal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

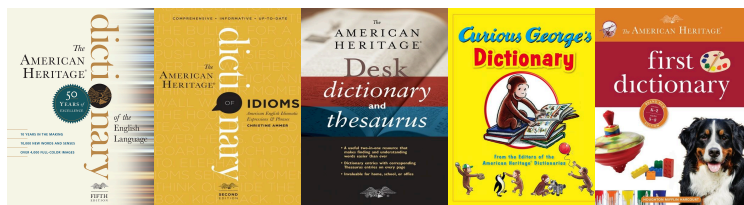
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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