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gid·dy  (gĭd ē)

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adj. **gid·di·er**, **gid·di·est**

1.

a. Having a reeling, lightheaded sensation; dizzy.

b. Causing or capable of causing dizziness: *a giddy climb to the topmast.*

2. Frivolous and lighthearted; flighty: *was giddy with excitement at the news.*

intr. & tr.v. **gid·died**, **gid·dy·ing**, **gid·dies**

To become or make giddy.

[Middle English *gidi*, crazy, from Old English *gidig*; see **gheu(ə)**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

gid di·ly *adv.*

gid di·ness *n.*

Word History: Though little trace of a divine provenance can be discerned in its modern meaning, *giddy* is derived from the same ancient Germanic word (**gudam*) that has given us the word *God*. The Germanic word **gudigaz*, formed from the word **gudam*, meant "possessed by a god." Such possession can be a rather unbalancing experience, and so it is not surprising that the Old English descendant of **gudigaz*, *gidig*, meant "mad, possessed by an evil spirit," or that the Middle English development of *gidig*, *gidi*, meant the same thing, as well as "foolish," "mad (used of an animal)," "dizzy," and "uncertain, unstable." Our sense "lighthearted, frivolous" represents the ultimate secularization of *giddy*.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

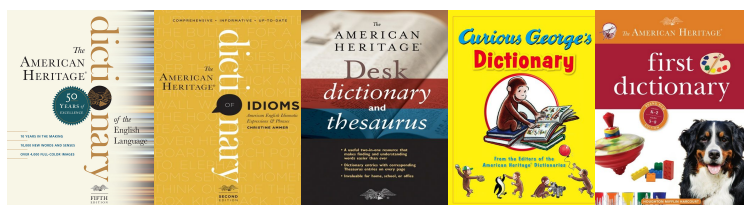
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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