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Language



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re·gress  (rĭ-grĕs)

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v. re·gressed, re·gress·ing, re·gress·es

v.intr.

1. To return to a previous, usually worse or less developed state: *When I left the country, my ability to speak the language regressed.*
2. To have a tendency to approach or go back to a statistical mean.
3. To move backward or away from a reference point; recede: *The seas regressed as the glaciers grew larger.*

v.tr.

Psychology

To induce a state of regression in: *techniques to regress a patient under hypnosis.*

n. (rĕ grĕs')

1. The act of regressing, especially the returning to a previous, usually worse or less developed state.
2. The act of reasoning backward from an effect to a cause or of continually applying a process of reasoning to its own results.

[Latin *regredī*, *regress-* : *re-*, *re-* + *gradī*, to go; see **ghredh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

re·gres sor n.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

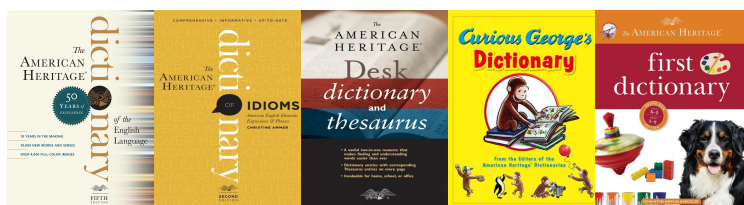
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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