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fierce  (firs)

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adj. **fierc·er**, **fierc·est**

1.
 - a. Hostile and violent, especially by nature or temperament; ferocious: *The Huns were fierce warriors.*
 - b. Characterized by or showing hostility: *gave us a fierce look.*
2. Extremely powerful or destructive: *a fierce storm; a fierce flood.*
3. Intense in activity or feeling; vigorous or ardent: *a fierce debate; fierce loyalty.*

[Middle English *fiers*, from Old French, from Latin *ferus*; see **ghwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

fierce **ly** *adv.*

fierce **ness** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

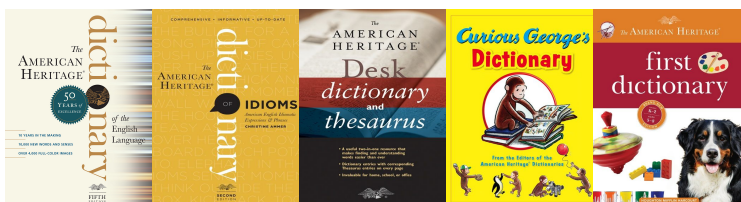
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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