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fe·ro·cious  (fə-rō shəs)

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adj.

1.

a. Extremely aggressive or violent: *a ferocious attack dog.*

b. Characterized by or showing extreme aggressiveness or violence: *a ferocious glare; ferocious claws.*

2. Extremely powerful or destructive: *a ferocious gale.*

3. Extreme in activity or feeling; intense: *a ferocious demand for a product; ferocious courage.*

[From Latin *ferōx*, *ferōc-*, fierce; see **ghwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

fe·ro cious·ly *adv.*

fe·roc i·ty (-rōs ĭ-tē), **fe·ro cious·ness** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

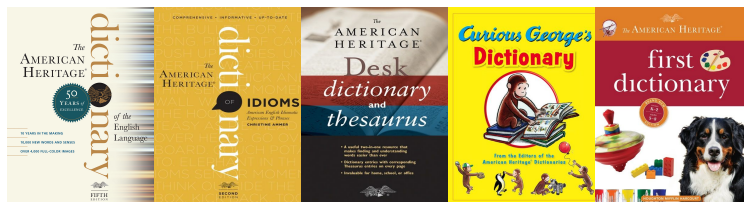
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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