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wife  (wīf)

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n. pl. wives (wīvz)

A woman joined to another person in marriage; a female spouse.

[Middle English *wif*, woman, wife, from Old English *wīf*.]

wife hood *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

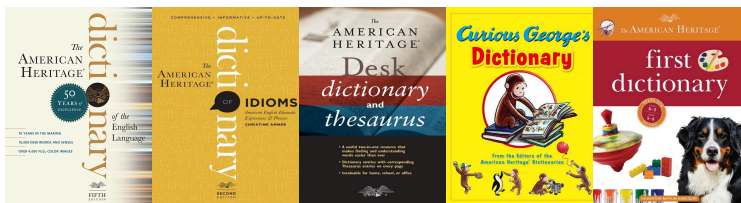
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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