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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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ad·ven·ti·tious  (ăd'ven-tīsh əs, -vən-)

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adj.

1. Arising from an external cause or factor; not inherent: *symmetry that was purely adventitious; adventitious circumstances that contributed to the plan's success.*

2. *Biology*

a. Of or belonging to a structure that develops in an unusual place: *adventitious roots.*

b. Originating from an external source, especially as a contaminant: *adventitious viruses in a cell culture.*

c. Not congenital: *adventitious deafness.*

[From Latin *adventicius*, foreign, from *adventus*, arrival; see [ADVENT](#).]

ad'ven-ti ti-ous·ly *adv.*

ad'ven-ti ti-ous·ness *n.*



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adventitious

adventitious roots of a corn plant

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

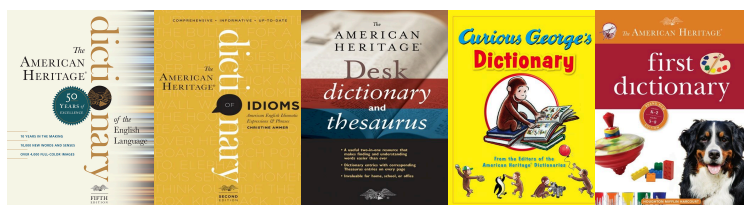
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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