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in·ter·vene  (in'tər-vēn)

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intr.v. **in·ter·vened**, **in·ter·ven·ing**, **in·ter·venes**

1.

a. To involve oneself in a situation so as to alter or hinder an action or development: *"Every gardener faces choices about how and how much to intervene in nature's processes" (Dora Galitzki).*

b. To interfere, usually through force or threat of force, in the affairs of another nation.

c. *Law* To enter into a lawsuit as a third party to assert a claim against one or both of the existing parties.

2. To come, appear, or lie between two things: *You can't see the lake from there because the house intervenes.*

3. To come or occur between two periods or points of time: *A year intervened between the two dynasties.*

4. To occur as an extraneous or unplanned circumstance: *He would have his degree by now if his laziness hadn't intervened.*

[Latin *intervenīre* : *inter-*, *inter-* + *venīre*, to come; see **g^Wä-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in'ter·ve **nor**, **in'ter·ven** **er** *n.*

in'ter·ven **tion·al** *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

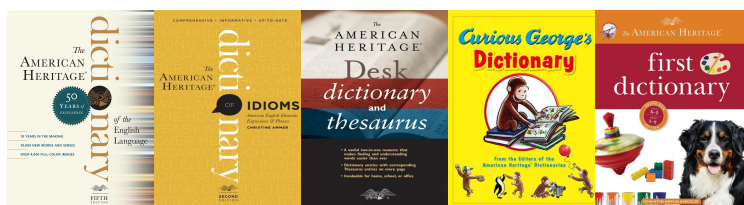
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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