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AMERICAN
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dictionary

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Language



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vi·a·ble  (vī ə-bəl)

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adj.

1. Capable of success or continuing effectiveness; practicable: *a viable plan; a viable national economy*. See Synonyms at [possible](#).

2.

a. Capable of living, developing, or germinating under favorable conditions: *viable spores*.

b. Capable of living outside the uterus. Used of a fetus or newborn.

[French, from *vie*, life, from Old French, from Latin *vīta*; see **g^{Wei}**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

vi'a·bil i·ty *n.*

vi a·bly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

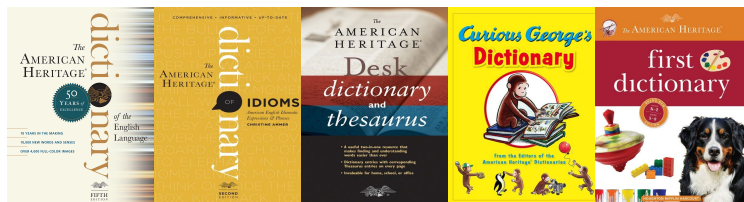
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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