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am·phi·bole  (ăm fə-bōl')

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n.

Any of a large group of structurally similar silicate minerals, such as hornblende, that have a crystalline structure consisting of a double chain of linked SiO₄ units and that contain various combinations of sodium, calcium, magnesium, iron, and aluminum. Several varieties of asbestos are fibrous forms of amphiboles.

[French, from Late Latin *amphibolus*, ambiguous, from Greek *amphibolos*, doubtful, from *amphiballein*, to throw on either side : *amphi-*, *amphi-* + *ballein*, to throw; see **g^wela-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

am'phi-bol ic (-bōl ĭk) *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

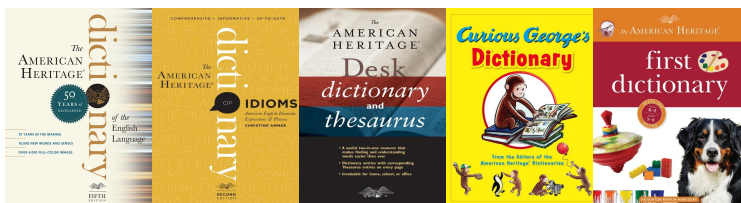
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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