



The  
AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

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**em·bo·lism**  (ěm bə-lĭz'əm)

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*n.*

1. Obstruction or occlusion of a blood vessel by an embolus.
2. An embolus.

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[Middle English *embolisme*, insertion of one or more days in a calendar, from Late Latin *embolismus*, from Greek *embolismos*, from *emballein*, to insert; see [EMBLEM](#).]

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**em'bo·lis mic** *adj.*

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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](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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