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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.

Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**gy·noe·ci·um**  (gī-nē sē-əm, jī-)

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*n. pl.* **gy·noe·ci·a** (-sē-ə)

The female reproductive organs of a flower; the pistil or pistils considered as a group.

[New Latin, alteration (influenced by Greek *oikos*, house) of Latin *gynaecēum*, women's apartments, from Greek *gunaikeion*, from neuter of *gunaikeios*, of women, from *gunē*, *gunaik-*, woman; see **g<sup>w</sup>en-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

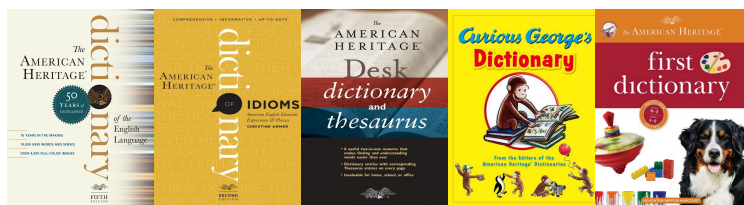
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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