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Language



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pro·file  (prō fil')

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n.

1.

a. A side view of an object or structure, especially of the human head.

b. A representation of an object or structure seen from the side. See Synonyms at [form](#).

2. An outline of an object. See Synonyms at [outline](#).

3. Degree of exposure to public notice; visibility: *preferred to keep a low profile*.

4. A biographical account presenting the subject's most noteworthy characteristics and achievements.

5.

a. A set of characteristics that identify or are thought to identify a particular type of person: *The police assembled a profile of the car thief*.

b. A formal summary or analysis of data, often in the form of a graph or table, representing distinctive features or characteristics: *a biochemical profile of blood*.

6. *Geology* A vertical section of soil or rock showing the sequence of the various layers.

tr.v. **pro·filed**, **pro·fil·ing**, **pro·files**

1. To draw or shape a profile of.

2. To produce a profile of: *profiled the singer in a magazine article*.

3. To engage in the ethnic or racial profiling of (a person).

[Italian *profilo*, from *profilare*, to draw in outline : *pro-*, forward (from Latin *prō-*; see [PRO-](#)¹) + *filare*, to draw a line (from Medieval Latin *filāre*, to spin, from Latin *fīlum*, thread; see [g^{whi}- in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

pro fil·er *n.*



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profile

c. 1475 Portrait of a Young Woman by Antonio del Pollaiuolo (1430?-1498)

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

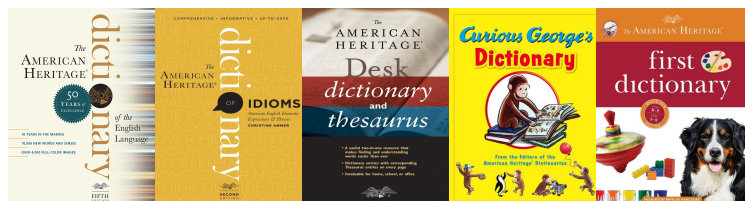
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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