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dictionary

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Language



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met·a·phrase  (mĕt ə-frāz')

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n.

A word-for-word translation.

tr.v. **met·a·phrased**, **met·a·phras·ing**, **met·a·phras·es**

1. To translate, especially literally.
2. To manipulate the wording of (a text), especially as a means of subtly altering the sense.

[New Latin *metaphrasis*, from Greek, translation, paraphrase, from *metaphrazein*, to translate : *meta-*, meta- + *phrazein*, to tell, show; see **g^whren-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

met'a·phras tic (-frās tĭk) *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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