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Language



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par·a·phrase  (păṛ ə-frāz')

Share:

n.

1. A restatement of a text or passage in another form or other words, often to clarify meaning.
2. The restatement of texts in other words as a studying or teaching device.
3. The adaptation or alteration of a text or quotation to serve a different purpose from that of the original.

v. **par·a·phrased, par·a·phras·ing, par·a·phras·es**

v.tr.

1. To restate using different words, especially to clarify.
2. To adapt or alter (a text or quotation) to serve a different purpose from that of the original: *"It's tempting to paraphrase an environmental slogan and say, 'Think globally, pray locally'" (Christian Science Monitor).*

v.intr.

To compose a paraphrase.

[French, from Latin *paraphrasis*, from Greek, from *paraphrazein*, to paraphrase : *para-*, alongside; see [PARA](#)-¹ + *phrazein*, to show, explain; see **g^whren-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

par a·phras'a·ble *adj.*

par a·phras'er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

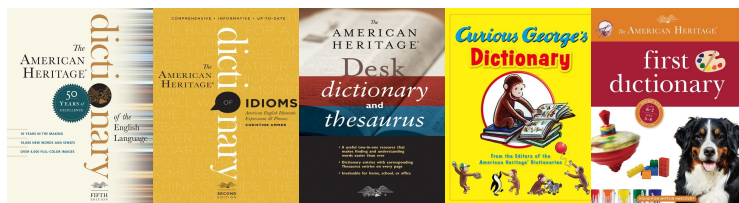
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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