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AMERICAN
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dictionary

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pe·riph·ra·sis  (pə-řif rə-sīs)

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n. pl. pe·riph·ra·ses (-sēz')

1. The use of circumlocution.
2. A circumlocution.

[Latin, from Greek, from *periphrazein*, to express periphrastically : *peri-*, peri- + *phrazein*, to say; see **g^whren-** [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:

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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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