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cher·ish  (chĕr ĭsh)

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tr.v. **cher·ished**, **cher·ish·ing**, **cher·ish·es**

1. To treat with affection and tenderness; hold dear: *cherish one's family; fine rugs that are cherished by their owners.*
2. To keep fondly in mind; treasure: *cherish a memory.* See Synonyms at [appreciate](#).

[Middle English *cherishen*, from Old French *cherir*, *cheriss-*, from *cher*, dear, from Latin *cārus*; see **kā-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cher ish·a·ble *n.*

cher ish·er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

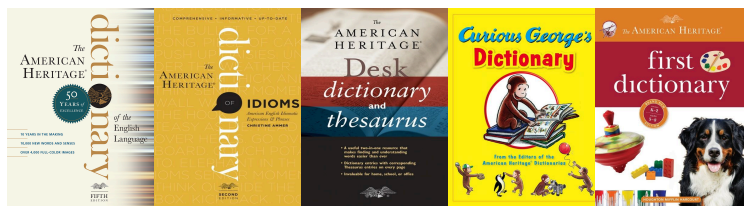
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[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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