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cap·tive  (kăp tĭv)

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n.

1. One, such as a prisoner of war, who is forcibly confined, subjugated, or enslaved.
2. One held in the grip of a strong emotion or passion.
3. A subsidiary that serves only its parent company.

adj.

1. Taken and held prisoner, as in war.
2. Held in bondage; enslaved.
3. Kept under restraint or control; confined: *captive birds*.
4. Enraptured, as by beauty; captivated.
5. Restrained by circumstances that prevent free choice: *a captive audience; a captive market*.
6. Serving a single company exclusively: *a captive insurer*.

[Middle English *captif*, from Old French, from Latin *captīvus*, from *captus*, past participle of *capere*, to seize; see [kap- in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

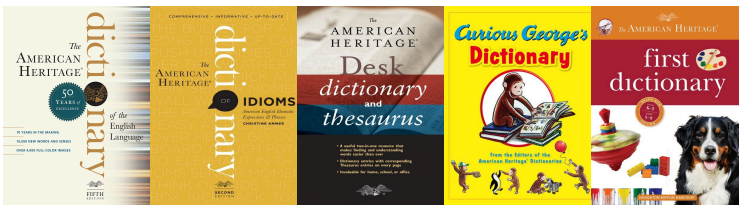
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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