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dictionary

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English
Language



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ca·pa·ble  (kā pə-bəl)

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- adj.*
1. Having capacity or ability; efficient and able: *a capable administrator*. See Usage Note at [able](#).
 2. Having the ability required for a specific task or accomplishment; qualified: *capable of winning*.
 3. Having the inclination or disposition: *capable of violence*.
 4. Permitting an action to be performed: *an error capable of remedy*; *a camera capable of being used underwater*.

[Late Latin *capābilis*, from *capere*, to take; see **kap-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ca pa·ble·ness *n.*

ca pa·bly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

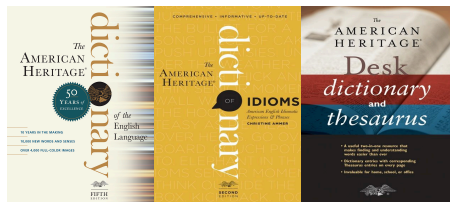
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

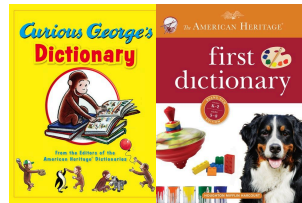
[Semitic Roots](#)

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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