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cap·tious  (kăp shəs)

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adj.

1. Marked by a disposition to find and point out trivial faults: *a captious scholar*.
2. Intended to entrap or confuse, as in an argument: *a captious question*.

[Middle English *capcious*, from Old French *captieux*, from Latin *captiōsus*, from *captiō*, seizure, sophism, from *captus*, past participle of *capere*, to seize; see **kap-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cap tious·ly *adv.*

cap tious·ness *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

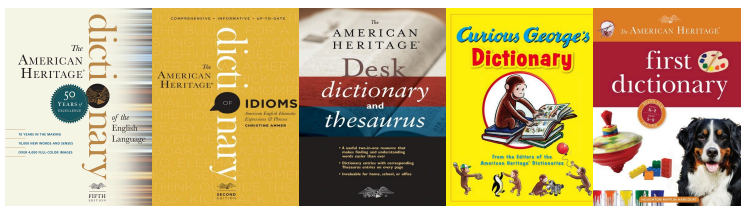
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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