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dictionary

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Language



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can·ker  (kăŋ kər)

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n.

1. Ulceration of the mouth and lips.
2. An inflammation or infection of the ear and auditory canal, especially in dogs and cats.
3. A condition in horses similar to but more advanced than thrush.

4.

a. A localized diseased or necrotic area on a plant part, especially on a trunk, branch, or twig of a woody plant, usually caused by fungi or bacteria.

b. Any of several diseases of plants characterized by the presence of such lesions.

5. A source of spreading corruption or decay.

v. **can·kered, can·ker·ing, can·kers**

v.tr.

1. To attack or infect with canker.
2. To infect with corruption or decay.

v.intr.

To become infected with or as if with canker.

[Middle English, from Old English *cancer* and from Old French *cancre*, both from Latin *cancer*, crab, malignant disease; see **kar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

canker

canker on a rose stem

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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:

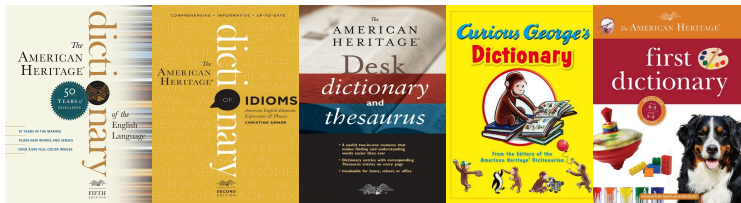
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available

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