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dictionary

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Language



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hew  (hy)

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v. **hewed**, **hewn** (hy n) or **hewed**, **hew-ing**, **hews**

v.tr.

1. To make or shape with or as if with an axe: *hew a path through the underbrush.*
2. To cut down with an axe; fell: *hew an oak.*
3. To strike or cut; cleave.

v.intr.

1. To cut something by repeated blows, as of an axe.
2. To adhere or conform strictly; hold: *hew to the line.*

[Middle English *hewen*, from Old English *hēawan*; see **kau-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

hew er n.

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HEW

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abbr.

Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

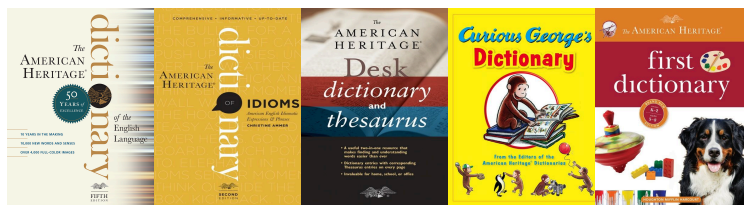
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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