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heck·le  (hĕk əl)

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tr.v. **heck·led**, **heck·ling**, **heck·les**

1. To try to embarrass and annoy (someone speaking or performing in public) by questions, gibes, or objections; badger.
2. To comb (flax or hemp) with a hatchel.

[Middle English *hekelen*, to comb with a hatchel, from *hekel*, hatchel, from Middle Dutch; see **keg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

heck **ler** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

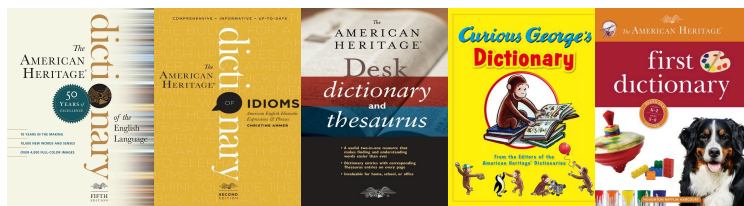
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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