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ex·cite  (ĭk-sīt)

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tr.v. **ex·cit·ed**, **ex·cit·ing**, **ex·cites**

1.
 - a. To arouse strong feeling in: *The speaker excited the crowd.* See Synonyms at [provoke](#).
 - b. To arouse (someone) sexually.
 - c. To elicit or arouse (a reaction or emotion, for example): *odd noises that excited our curiosity.*
2.
 - a. To cause to become more active: *Lowering interest rates should excite the economy.*
 - b. *Physiology* To produce increased activity or response in (an organ, tissue, or part); stimulate.
 - c. *Physics* To raise (an atom, for example) to a higher energy level.

[Middle English *exciten*, from Latin *excitāre*, frequentative of *exciēre* : *ex-*, *ex-* + *ciēre*, to set in motion; see **keia-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

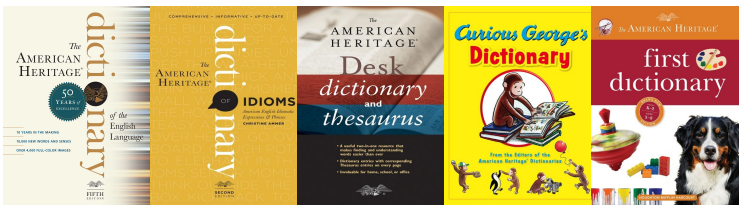
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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