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Language



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co·le·us  (kō lē-əs)

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n.

Any of various plants in the mint family formerly of the genus *Coleus*, especially *Solenostemon scutellarioides* and some species in the genus *Plectranthus*, native to tropical Africa and Asia and widely grown as ornamentals for their multicolored leaves.

[New Latin *Coleus*, genus name, from Greek *koleos*, sheath (from the way the filaments of its stamens are joined in a tube); see **kel**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

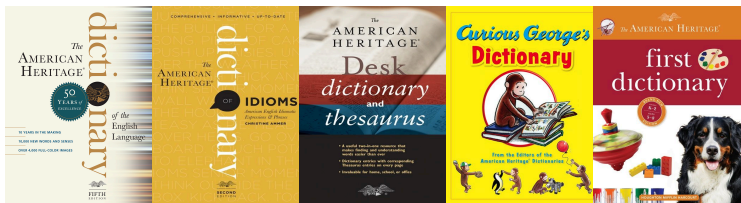
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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