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dictionary

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colo·nel  (kûr nəl)

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n.

1.

a. A commissioned rank in the US Army, Air Force, or Marine Corps that is above lieutenant colonel and below brigadier general.

b. One who holds this rank or a similar rank in another military organization.

2. An honorary nonmilitary title awarded by some states of the United States.

[Alteration of obsolete *coronel*, from French, from Old Italian *colonello*, from diminutive of *colonna*, column of soldiers, from Latin *columna*, column; see **kel**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

colo nəl·cy, **colo** nəl·ship' *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

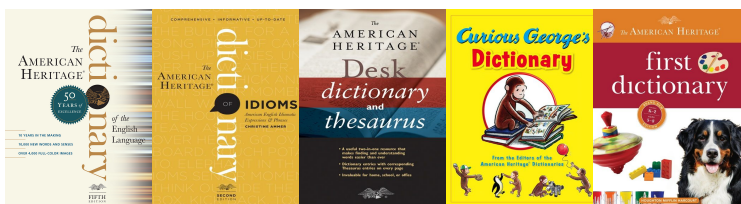
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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