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ex·cres·cence  (ĭk-skrĕs əns)

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n.

1. An outgrowth or enlargement, especially an abnormal one, such as a wart.
2. A usually unwanted or unnecessary accretion: *"Independent agencies were an excrescence on the Constitution" (Los Angeles Times).*

[Middle English, from Latin *excrēscēntia*, from neuter pl. of *excrēscēns*, *excrēscēt-*, present participle of *excrēscere*, to grow out : *ex-*, *ex-* + *crēscere*, to grow; see **ker-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

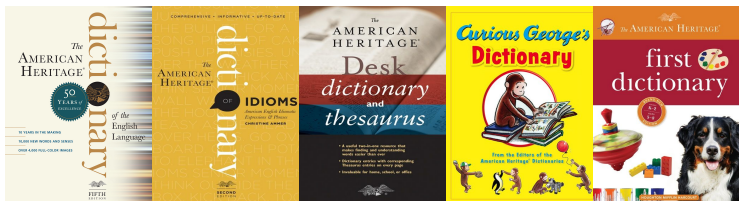
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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