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dis·course  (dĭs kôrs')

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n.

1. Verbal expression in speech or writing: *political discourse*.

2.

a. Verbal exchange or conversation: *listened to their discourse on foreign policy*.

b. A series of connected remarks about a subject.

3. A formal, lengthy treatment of a subject, either written or spoken.

4. *Archaic* The process or power of reasoning.

v. (dĭ-skôrs) **dis·coursed, dis·cours·ing, dis·cours·es**

v. intr.

1. To speak or write formally and at length. See Synonyms at [speak](#).

2. To engage in conversation or discussion; converse: “*The two men walked around the city and discoursed on its antiquities*” (Michael Wood).

v. tr.

Archaic

To narrate or discuss.

[Middle English *discours*, process of reasoning, from Medieval Latin *discursus*, from Latin, a running about, from past participle of *discurrere*, to run about : *dis-*, apart; see [dis-](#) + *currere*, to run; see **kers-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

dis·cours *er n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

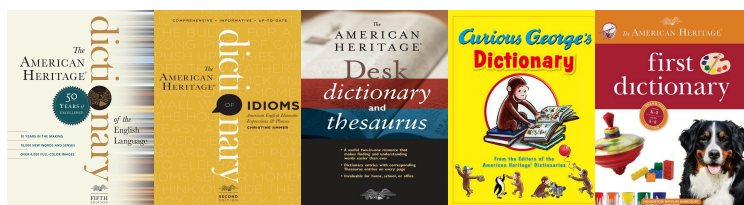
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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