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pre·cur·sor  (prĭ-kûr sər, prē kûr'sər)

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n.

1. One that precedes and indicates, suggests, or announces someone or something to come: *Colonial opposition to unfair taxation by the British was a precursor of the Revolution.*
2. One that precedes another; a forerunner or predecessor: *The new principal's precursor was an eminent educator.*
3. A biochemical substance, such as an intermediate compound in a chain of enzymatic reactions, from which a more stable or definitive product is formed: *a precursor of insulin.*

[Middle English *precursoure*, from Old French *precurseur*, from Latin *praecursor*, from *praecursus*, past participle of *praecurrere*, to run before : *prae-*, pre- + *currere*, to run; see **kers-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

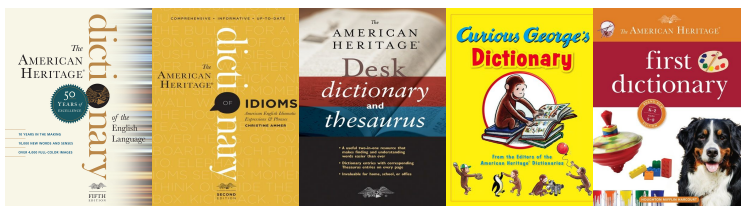
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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