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car·i·ca·ture  (kăṛ ĭ-kə-ch r', -chər)

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n.

1.

a. A representation, especially pictorial or literary, in which the subject's distinctive features or peculiarities are deliberately exaggerated to produce a comic or grotesque effect.

b. The art of creating such representations.

2. A grotesque imitation or misrepresentation: *The trial was a caricature of justice.*

tr.v. **car·i·ca·tured**, **car·i·ca·tur·ing**, **car·i·ca·tures**

To represent or imitate in an exaggerated, distorted manner.

[French, from Italian *caricatura*, from *caricare*, to load, exaggerate, from Late Latin *carricāre*, from Latin *carrus*, a Gallic type of wagon; see **kers-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

car i·ca·tur'ist *n.*



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caricature

caricature (top) by George Sidney Shepherd (1784-1862) and photographic portrait (bottom) of Norwegian author Henrik Ibsen

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

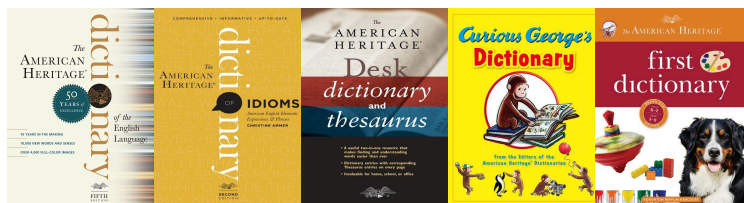
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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