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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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To look up an entry in *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, use the search window above. For best results, after typing in the word, click on the “Search” button instead of using the “enter” key.

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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**cav·i·ty**  (kăv ĭ-tē)

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*n. pl. cav·i·ties*

1. A hollow; a hole.
2. A hollow area within the body: *a sinus cavity*.
3. A pitted area in a tooth caused by caries.

[French *cavité*, from Late Latin *cavitās*, from Latin *cavus*, hollow; see **keuə-** [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](#)

[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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