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dictionary

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as·cer·tain  (ăs'ər-tān)

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tr.v. **as·cer·tained, as·cer·tain·ing, as·cer·tains**

1. To discover with certainty, as through examination or experimentation. See Synonyms at [discover](#).
2. *Archaic* To make certain, definite, and precise.

[Middle English *ascertainen*, to inform, from Old French *ascertener, ascertain-* : *a-*, to (from Latin *ad-*; see [AD-](#)) + *certain*, certain; see [CERTAIN](#).]

as'cer·tain **a·ble** *adj.*

as'cer·tain **a·ble·ness** *n.*

as'cer·tain **a·bly** *adv.*

as'cer·tain **ment** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

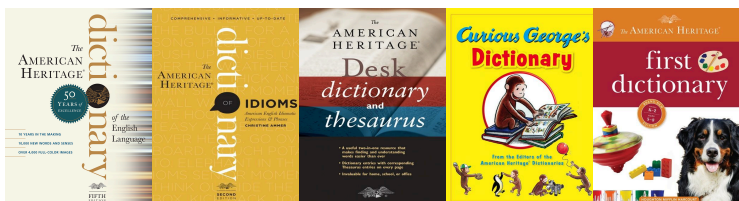
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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