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dictionary

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English
Language



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dis·crete  (dĭ-skrĕt)

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adj.

1. Constituting a separate thing: *Computers treat time as a series of discrete moments rather than a continuous flow.*
See Synonyms at [distinct](#).
2. Consisting of unconnected distinct parts: *society viewed as a discrete whole of individual agents.*
3. *Mathematics* Defined for a finite or countable set of values; not continuous.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *discrētus*, past participle of *discernere*, to separate; see [DISCERN](#).]

dis·crete *ly adv.*

dis·crete *ness n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

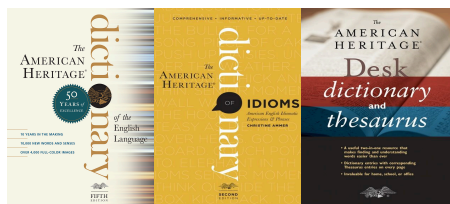
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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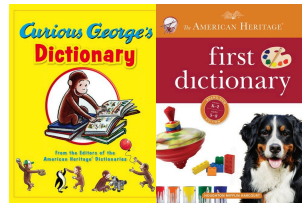
The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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