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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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di·a·crit·ic  (dī'ə-krīt ĭk)

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adj.

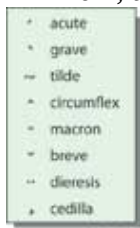
1. Diacritical.

2. *Medicine* Diagnostic or distinctive.

n.

A mark, such as the cedilla of *façade* or the acute accents of *résumé*, added to a letter to indicate a special phonetic value or distinguish words that are otherwise graphically identical.

[Greek *diakritikos*, distinguishing, from *diakritos*, distinguished, from *diakrīnein*, to distinguish : *dia-*, apart; see [DIA-](#) + *krīnein*, to separate; see [krei-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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diacritic

common diacritics

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

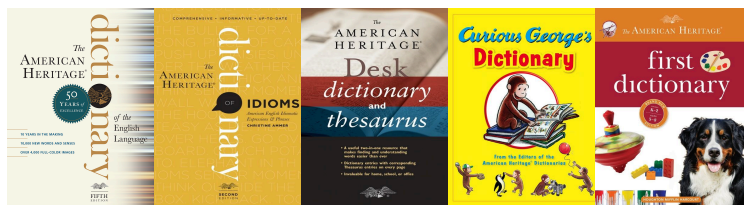
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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