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en·tel·e·chy  (ĕn-tĕl ĭ-kē)

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n. pl. **en·tel·e·chies**

1. In the philosophy of Aristotle, the actualization of the potential form or function of a substance.
2. In some philosophical systems, a vital force that directs an organism toward self-fulfillment.

[Late Latin *entelechia*, from Greek *entelekheia* : *entelēs*, complete (*en-*, in; see [EN-](#)² + *telos*, completion; see [k^wel-](#)¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots) + *ekhein*, to have; see [segh-](#) in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

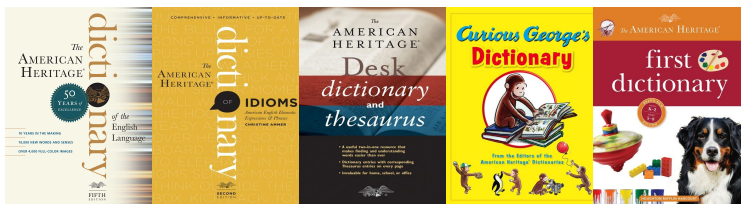
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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