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ep·i·cy·cle  (ěp ĭ-sĭ'kəl)

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n.

1. In Ptolemaic cosmology, a small circle, the center of which moves on the circumference of a larger circle at whose center is the earth and the circumference of which describes the orbit of one of the planets around the earth.
2. *Mathematics* A circle whose circumference rolls along the circumference of a fixed circle, thereby generating an epicycloid or a hypocycloid.

[Middle English *epicicle*, from Late Latin *epicyclus*, from Greek *epikuklos* : *epi-*, *epi-* + *kuklos*, circle; see **k^wel-¹** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

ep'i·cyc lic (-sĭk lĭk, -sĭ klĭk) *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

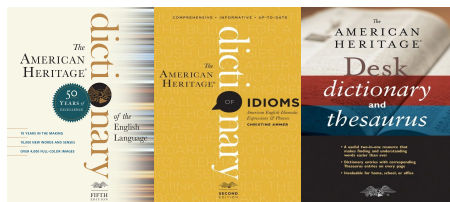
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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