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an·cil·lar·y  (ăn sə-lěr'ē)

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adj.

1. Of secondary importance; subordinate: *"For Degas, sculpture was never more than ancillary to his painting" (Herbert Read).*

2. Auxiliary or accessory: *an ancillary pump.*

n. pl. an·cil·lar·ies

1. Something that is subordinate or accessory to something else: *a tripod, battery charger, and other camera ancillaries.*

2. A person working in a supportive or subordinate role: *school ancillaries who look after children who become sick.*

[From Latin *ancilla*, maidservant, feminine diminutive of *anculus*, servant; see **k^wel-¹** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

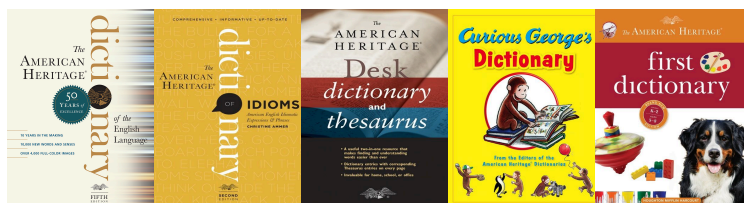
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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