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dictionary

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tet·rad  (tět răd')

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n.

1. A group or set of four.
2. A tetravalent atom, radical, or element.
3. *Biology*
 - a. A four-part structure that forms during the prophase of meiosis and consists of two homologous chromosomes, each composed of two sister chromatids.
 - b. A group of four haploid cells, such as spores, formed by meiotic division of one mother cell.

[Greek *tetras*, *tetrad*-; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

te·trad *ic adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

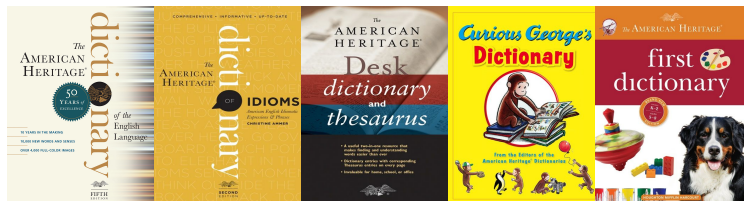
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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