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dictionary

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Language



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how  (hou)

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adv.

1. In what manner or way; by what means: *How does this machine work?*
2. In what state or condition: *How is she today?*
3. To what extent, amount, or degree: *How bad was it?*
4. For what reason or purpose; why: *How is it that he left early?*
5. With what meaning: *How should I take that remark?*
6. By what name: *How is she called?*
7. By what measure; in what units: *How do you sell this corn?*
8. What. Usually used in requesting that something be said again: *How's that again?*
9. Used as an intensive: *How we laughed!*

conj.

1. The manner or way in which: *forgot how it was done.*
2. That: *I told them how I had once been bitten by a snake.*
3. In whatever way or manner; however: *Cook it how you please.*

n.

A manner or method of doing something: "*The how of research is generated by the why of the world*" ([Frederick Turner](#)).

Idioms:

and how *Informal*

Most certainly; you bet: *She's a good dancer, and how!*

how about

1. Used to make a suggestion or to offer something: *How about a cup of tea?*
2. Used to request an opinion about something considered remarkable or impressive: *How about that storm last night?*

how about that *Informal*

Used rhetorically to express surprise or wonder at or approval for something.

how come *Informal*

How is it that; why: *How come you're so late?*

how so

How is it so: *You say the answer is wrong. How so?*

[Middle English *howe*, from Old English *hū*; see **k^{wo}**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

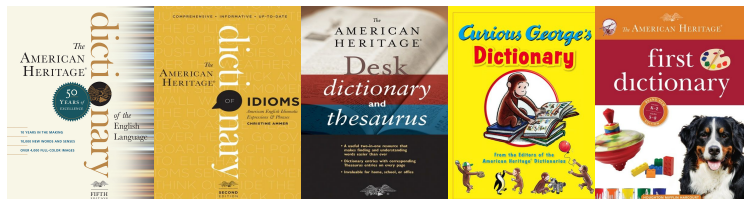
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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