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quib·ble  (kwīb əl)

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intr.v. **quib·bled**, **quib·bling**, **quib·bles**

To argue or find fault over trivial matters or minor concerns; cavil.

n.

1. A trivial matter or minor concern raised in arguing or finding fault.

2. *Archaic* A pun.

[Probably diminutive of obsolete *quib*, equivocation, perhaps from Latin *quibus*, dative and ablative pl. of *quī*, who, what (from its frequent use in legal documents); see **k^wo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

quib bler *n.*

Synonyms: quibble, carp¹, cavil, nitpick

These verbs mean to raise petty or frivolous objections or complaints: *quibbling about minor details; a critic who constantly carped; caviling about the price of coffee; tried to stop nitpicking all the time.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

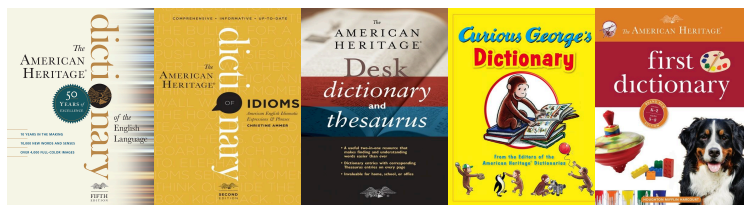
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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