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quid·di·ty  (kwĭd ĭ-tē)

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n. pl. quid·di·ties

1. The real nature of a thing; the essence.
2. A hairsplitting distinction; a quibble.

[Medieval Latin *quidditās*, from Latin *quid*, what; 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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