



# The American Heritage Dictionary of Indo-European Roots

By Calvert Watkins

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Fully revised and updated, THE AMERICAN HERITAGE® DICTIONARY OF INDO-EUROPEAN ROOTS remains an indispensable resource for anyone interested in the history of English and its place in the Indo-European language family. More than 13,000 words are traced to their origins in Proto-Indo-European, the prehistoric ancestor of English that was spoken before the advent of writing. In Calvert Watkins's skilled hands, Proto-Indo-European language and society are rendered as alive and compelling as they must have been six thousand years ago. His introductory essay shows how words in an unrecorded ancient language can be reconstructed and offers a wealth of fascinating information about Proto-Indo-European culture. The dictionary that follows contains nearly 1,350 reconstructed roots, plus two dozen new "Language and Culture" notes that explore interesting sidelights to the etymologies presented in many entries.

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## The American Heritage Dictionary of Indo-European Roots By Calvert Watkins Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #925229 in Books
- Brand: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
- Published on: 2000-09-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .50" w x 6.00" l, .70 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 192 pages



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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Calvert Watkins is the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Linguistics and the Classics, Emeritus, at Harvard University, and Professor-in-Residence in the Department of Classics and the Program in Indo-European Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He specializes in Indo-European comparative linguistics, especially Latin, Greek, Celtic, Hittite, and comparative morphology and poetics. He wrote the “Appendix of Indo-European Roots” for the first edition of *The American Heritage Dictionary* and has revised it for the third, fourth, and fifth editions.

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