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Some compound words (like *bus rapid transit*, *dog whistle*, or *identity theft*) don’t appear on the drop-down list when you type them in the search bar. For best results with compound words, place a quotation mark before the compound word in the search window.

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com·merce  (kŏm-ərs)

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n.

1. The buying and selling of goods, especially on a large scale, as between cities or nations. See Synonyms at [business](#).
2. Intellectual exchange or social interaction.
3. Sexual intercourse.

[French, from Old French, from Latin *commercium* : *com-*, *com-* + *merx*, *merc-*, merchandise.]

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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](#)

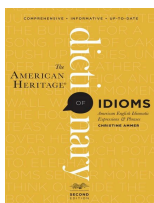
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

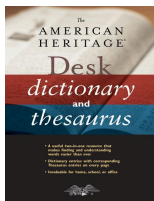
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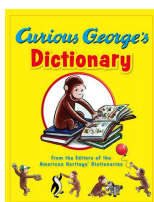
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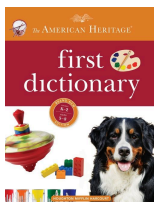
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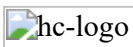
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