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GUIDE TO THE DICTIONARY



THE USAGE PANEL

The Usage Panel is a group of nearly 200 prominent scholars, creative writers, journalists, diplomats, and others in occupations requiring mastery of language.

THE PANELISTS

count·er<sup>2</sup> (koun'tər)

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n.

- 1. A flat surface on which money is counted, business is transacted, or food is prepared or served.
2. Games A piece, as of wood or ivory, used for keeping a count or a place.
3. a. An imitation coin; a token. b. A piece of money.

Idioms:

over the counter

- 1. Without being listed or available on an officially recognized stock exchange but in trade by direct negotiation between buyers and sellers: bought stocks over the counter.
2. Without a doctor's prescription being legally required: cold medicine that is available over the counter.

under the counter

In an illegal or surreptitious manner; illicitly: arrested for selling prescription drugs under the counter.

[Middle English countour, from Anglo-Norman counteur, from Medieval Latin computātōrium, countinghouse, from Latin computāre, to calculate; see COUNT<sup>1</sup>.]

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counter-

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pref.

- 1. Contrary; opposite; opposing: counterclaim.
2. Corresponding; complementary: counterfoil.

[Middle English countre-, from Old French contre-, from Latin contrā; see kom 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:

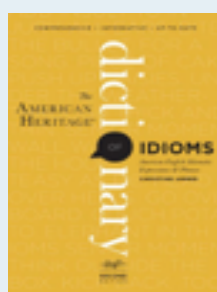
- Indo-European Roots
Semitic Roots

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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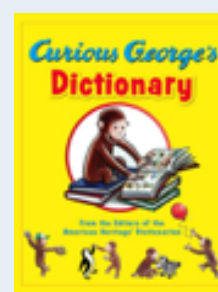
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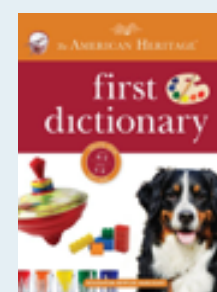
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