



# The Origins of English Words: A Discursive Dictionary of Indo-European Roots

*Joseph Twadell Shipley*

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There are no direct records of the original Indo-European speech. By comparing the vocabularies of its various descendants, however, it is possible to reconstruct the basic Indo-European roots with considerable confidence. In *The Origins of English Words*, Shipley catalogues these proposed roots and follows the often devious, always fascinating, process by which some of their offshoots have grown.

Anecdotal, eclectic, and always enthusiastic, *The Origins of English Words* is a diverting expedition beyond linguistics into literature, history, folklore, anthropology, philosophy, and science.

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