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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE\*

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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[guide to the dictionary](#).



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**af·fil·i·ate**  (ə-fīl-ē-āt')

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**v.** **af·fil·i·at·ed**, **af·fil·i·at·ing**, **af·fil·i·ates**

**v.tr.**

1. To adopt or accept as a member, subordinate associate, or branch: *The HMO affiliated the clinics last year.*
2. To associate (oneself) as a subordinate, subsidiary, employee, or member: *affiliated herself with a new law firm.*
3. To assign the origin of.

**v.intr.**

To become closely connected or associated: *The two unions voted to affiliate.*

**n.** (-ē-īt, -āt')

A person, organization, or establishment associated with another as a subordinate, subsidiary, or member: *network affiliates.*

[Medieval Latin *affiliāre*, to adopt : Latin *ad-*, *ad-* + Latin *filius*, son; see **dhē(i)-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

**af·fil'·i·a·tion** **n.**

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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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