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**punt** <sup>1</sup> (pŭnt)

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*n.*

An open flatbottom boat with squared ends, used in shallow waters and usually propelled by a long pole.

*v.* **punt·ed, punt·ing, punts**

*v.tr.*

1. To propel (a boat) with a pole.

2. To carry in a punt.

*v.intr.*

To go in a punt.

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[Probably Middle English *\*punt*, from Old English *punt*, from Latin *pontō*, pontoon, flatbottom boat, from *pōns*, *pont-*, bridge; see **pent-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**punt** *er n.*

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**punt** <sup>2</sup> (pŭnt) *Football*

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*n.*

A kick in which the ball is dropped from the hands and kicked before it touches the ground.

*v.* **punt·ed, punt·ing, punts**

*v.tr.*

To propel (a ball) by means of a punt.

*v.intr.*

1. To execute a punt.

2. *Informal* To cease doing something; give up: *Let's punt on this and try something else.*

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[Perhaps from dialectal *punt*, to strike, push, perhaps alteration of *bunt*.]

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**punt** *er n.*

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**punt** <sup>3</sup> (pŭnt)

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*intr.v.* **punt·ed, punt·ing, punts**

1. *Games* To lay a bet against the bank, as in roulette.

2. *Chiefly British Slang* To gamble.

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[French *ponter*, from obsolete *pont*, past participle of *pondre*, to put (obsolete), lay an egg, from Old French, to lay an egg, from Latin *pōnere*; see **apo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

**punt** *er n.*

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**punt** <sup>4</sup>  (pŭnt)

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*n.*  
The indentation in the bottom of a champagne or wine bottle.

[Perhaps from [PUNTY](#).]



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**punt4**

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# Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

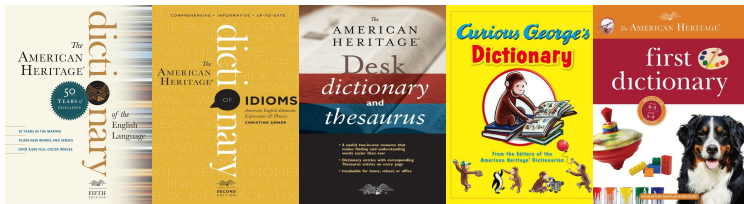
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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