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bus·tard (büs tərd)

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n.

Any of various large, long-legged Old World game birds of the family Otidae that nest on the ground and frequent dry grassy plains.

[Middle English, from blend of Old French *bistarde* and Old French *oustarde*, both from Latin *avis tarda*, bustard, literally “slow bird”: *avis*, bird; see **awi-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots + *tarda*, feminine of *tardus*, slow (so called for unknown reasons, since bustards are swift runners; the Latin term *avis tarda* is said by Pliny the Elder to have originated in the Roman provinces of the Iberian Peninsula, and it is thus perhaps a folk-etymological alteration of a local term in an unknown pre-Roman language).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

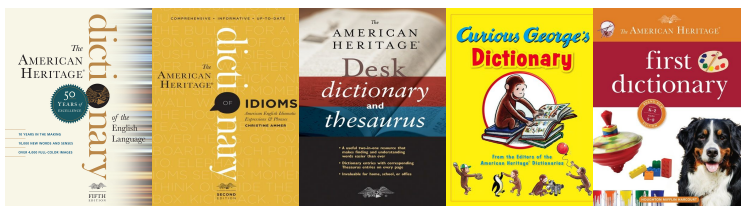
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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