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bean  (bēn)

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n.

1.

a. Any of various twining herbs of the genus *Phaseolus* in the pea family, native to the Americas, having leaves with three leaflets and variously colored flowers, and widely cultivated for their edible pods and seeds.

b. A seed or pod of any of these plants.

2. Any of several related plants or their seeds or pods, such as the adzuki bean, broad bean, or soybean.

3. Any of various other plants or their seeds or fruits, especially those suggestive of beans such as the coffee bean or vanilla bean.

4. Slang A person's head.

5. beans Slang A small amount: *I don't know beans about investing.*

6. Chiefly British A fellow; a chap.

tr.v. **beaned, bean·ing, beans**

Slang

To hit (another) on the head with a thrown object, especially a pitched baseball.

Idioms:

full of beans

1. Energetic; frisky: *The children were too full of beans to sit still.*

2. Badly mistaken: *Don't believe him; he's full of beans.*

spill the beans

To disclose a secret.

[Middle English *ben*, broad bean, from Old English *bēan*; see **bha-bhā-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Bean  (bēn), **Roy** Self-styled "**the Law West of the Pecos.**" 1825?-1903.

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American frontiersman in Texas who in 1881 appointed himself justice of the peace and handed down judgments based on one law book and one six-shooter.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

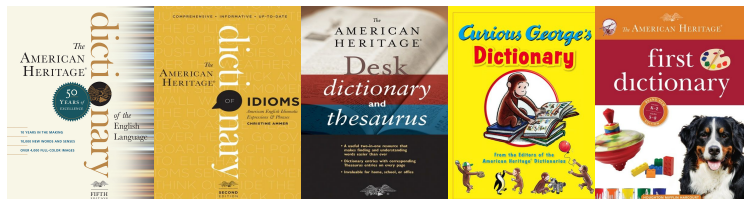
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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