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boot¹  (b t)

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n.

1. A durable covering for the foot and part or much of the leg, usually made of leather, fabric, plastic, or rubber.
2. A protective covering, especially a sheath to enclose the base of a floor-mounted gear shift lever in a car or truck.
3. *Chiefly British* An automobile trunk.
4.
 - a. A kick.
 - b. *Slang* An unceremonious dismissal, as from a job. Used with *the*.
 - c. *Slang* A swift, pleasurable feeling; a thrill.
5. A Denver boot.
6. A marine or navy recruit in basic training.
7. *Computers* The process of starting or restarting a computer.
8. **boots** An instrument of torture, used to crush the foot and leg.

tr.v. **boot·ed, boot·ing, boots**

1. To put boots on.
2. To kick: *booted the ball into the goal*.
3. *Slang* To discharge unceremoniously. See Synonyms at [dismiss](#).
4. *Computers* To start (a computer) by loading an operating system from a disk.
5. To disable (a vehicle) by attaching a Denver boot.
6. *Baseball* To misplay (a ground ball).

Idiom:

boots on the ground

1. Soldiers actively serving in a conflict zone: *attempted to win the war with airstrikes rather than with boots on the ground*.
2. Personnel actively engaging in an effort at a fundamental level: *failed to mobilize enough boots on the ground to win the election*.

[Middle English *bote*, from Old French.]

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boot²  (b t)

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intr.v. **boot·ed, boot·ing, boots**

To be of help or advantage; avail.

n.

1. *Chiefly Southern & Midland US* See [lagniappe](#).
2. *Archaic* Advantage; avail.

Idiom:

to boot

In addition; besides: *The new cruise ship was not only the biggest in the world, but the fastest to boot*.

[Middle English *boten*, to be of help, from Old English *bōtian*, from *bōt*, help; see **bhad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

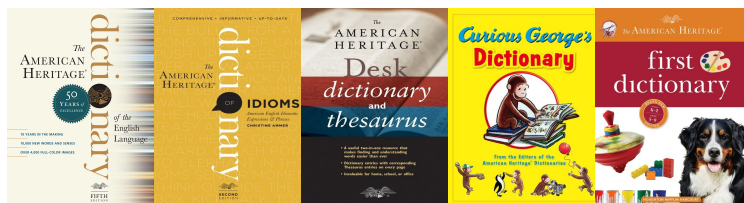
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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