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dictionary

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e·soph·a·gus also **oe·soph·a·gus**  (ĩ-sŏf ə-gəs)

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n. pl. **e·soph·a·gi** (-jĩ', -gĩ') also **oe·soph·a·gi**

The muscular tube by which food passes from the pharynx to the stomach; the gullet.

[Middle English *isophagus*, from Medieval Latin *ēsophagus*, from Greek *oisophagos*, arbitrary medical coinage perhaps from *ois-* : future tense stem of *pherein*, to carry; see **oit-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-phagos*, food (unattested sense) (from *phagein*, to eat; see **bhag-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

e·soph'a·ge al (-jē əl) *adj.*

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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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