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barn  (bärn)

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n.

1. A large building for sheltering livestock, storing hay or other agricultural products, or housing equipment used for operating a farm.
2. A large shed for the housing of vehicles, such as railroad cars.
3. A particularly large, typically bare building: *lived in a barn of a country house.*
4. *Abbr. b Physics* A unit of area equal to 10^{-24} square centimeters, used to measure cross sections in nuclear physics.

[Middle English *bern*, from Old English *berærn* : *bere*, barley; see **bhares-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots + *ærn*, house.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

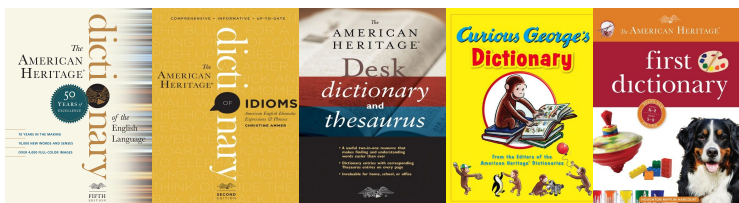
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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