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hal·i·but  (hăl ə-bət, hōl -)

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n. pl. **halibut** or **hal-i-buts**

Any of several large edible flatfishes of the genus *Hippoglossus* and related genera, of northern Atlantic or Pacific waters.

[Middle English : *hali*, *holi*, holy (from its being eaten on holy days); see [HOLY](#) + *butte*, flatfish (from Middle Dutch; see **bhau-** [in the Appendix of 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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