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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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beck¹  (běk)

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n.

A gesture of beckoning or summons.

Idiom:

at (someone's) beck and call

Ready to comply with any wish or command.

[Middle English *bek*, from *bekken*, to beckon, alteration of *bekenen*; see [BECKON](#).]

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beck²  (běk)

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n.

Chiefly British

A small brook; a creek.

[Middle English, from Old Norse *bekkr*; see **bheg^w**- [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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