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be·lu·ga  (bə-l gə)

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n.

1. A small toothed whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) chiefly of the Arctic Ocean, having a bulbous forehead and a white body when full-grown. Also called *white whale*.

2.

a. A large white anadromous sturgeon (*Huso huso*) of the Black and Caspian Seas, valued for its roe. Also called *beluga sturgeon*, *whitefish*.

b. Caviar made from the roe of this fish, having large grayish grains.

[Russian *belukha*, white whale, and *beluga*, sturgeon : *belyĩ*, white; see **bhel-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-uga*, *-ukha*, augmentative suff.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

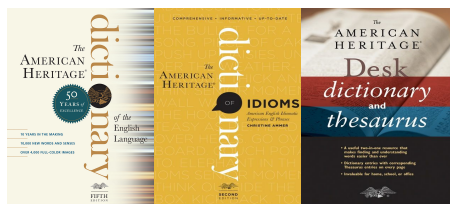
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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