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phal·a·rope  (făl ə-rōp')

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n.

Any of several small shorebirds of the genus *Phalaropus*, having lobed toes and characteristically feeding by spinning in small circles in the water and catching small invertebrates brought to the surface by this motion.

[French, from New Latin *phalaropūs* : Greek *phalaris*, coot (from *phalaros*, having a white spot (the Eurasian coot having a fleshy, bright white area on its forehead extending up from its bill between its eyes); see **bhel**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + Greek *pous*, foot; see **ped**- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

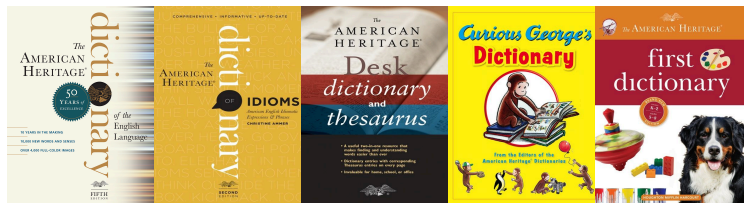
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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