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bowl ¹  (bōl)

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n.

1.

a. A hemispherical vessel, wider than it is deep, used for holding food or fluids.

b. The contents of such a vessel.

2. A drinking goblet.

3. A bowl-shaped part, as of a spoon or pipe.

4.

a. A bowl-shaped topographic depression.

b. A bowl-shaped stadium or outdoor theater.

5. *Football* Any of various postseason games played between specially selected teams, especially at the college level.

[Middle English *bowle*, from Old English *bolla*; see **bhel**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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bowl ²  (bōl)

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n.

1. A ball, traditionally made of wood, that is weighted or slightly flattened so as to roll with a bias, used in lawn bowling.

2. A roll or throw of a ball in lawn bowling and other bowling games.

3. **bowls** (*used with a sing. verb*) See [lawn bowling](#).

4. A revolving cylinder or drum in a machine.

v. **bowled, bowl·ing, bowls**

v. *intr.*

1.

a. To participate in a game of bowling: *I bowl every Thursday night in a league.*

b. To throw or roll a ball in a game of bowling: *It's your turn to bowl.*

c. To hurl a cricket ball from one end of the pitch toward the batsman at the other, keeping the arm straight throughout the delivery.

2. To move quickly and smoothly, especially by rolling: *The sportscar bowled along through the countryside.*

v. *tr.*

1. To throw or roll (a ball).

2.

a. To make (a specified score) in bowling: *placed first by bowling 237; bowled a strike in the first frame.*

b. To perform (a specified amount, as a string or game) in bowling: *She bowled eight frames before deciding to use a different ball.*

3. To move quickly and smoothly by or as if by rolling: *bowled a tire from the garage.*

4. To meet or strike with or as if with the force of a rapidly rolling object: *The swimmer was bowled over by the wave.*

Phrasal Verbs:

bowl out

To retire (a batsman in cricket) with a bowled ball that knocks the bails off the wicket.

bowl over

1. To take by surprise.
2. To make a powerful impression on; overwhelm.

[Middle English *boule*, from Old French, from Latin *bullā*, round object.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

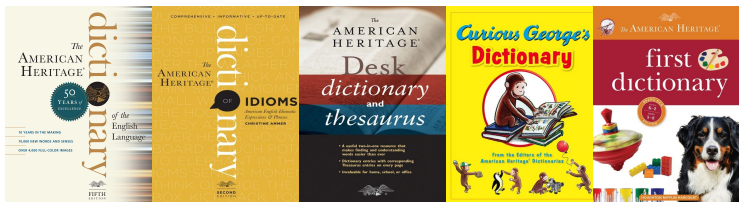
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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