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pall-mall 🗣️ (pěl mĕl , pāl māl , pōl mōl)

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n.

1. A game of the 1600s in which a boxwood ball was struck with a mallet to drive it through an iron ring suspended at the end of an alley.
2. The alley in which this game was played.

[Obsolete French *pallemaille*, from Italian *pallamaglio* : *palla*, ball (of Germanic origin; see **bhel-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *maglio*, mallet (from Latin *malleus*; see **mela-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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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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