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ba·leen  (bə-lēn)

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n.

See [whalebone](#).

[Middle English *balene*, from Old French *baleine*, from Latin *balaena*, whale, from Greek *phallaina*, *phalaina*; see *bhel*-² [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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