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dictionary

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English
Language



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bil·low  (bĭl ō)

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n.

1. A large wave or swell of water.
2. A great swell, surge, or undulating mass, as of smoke or sound.

v. **bil·lowed**, **bil·low·ing**, **bil·lows**

v.intr.

1. To surge or roll in billows.
2. To swell out or bulge: *sheets billowing in the breeze.*

v.tr.

To cause to billow: *wind that billowed the sails.*

[From Old Norse *bylgja*, a wave; see **bhelgh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

bil low·i·ness *n.*

bil low·y *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

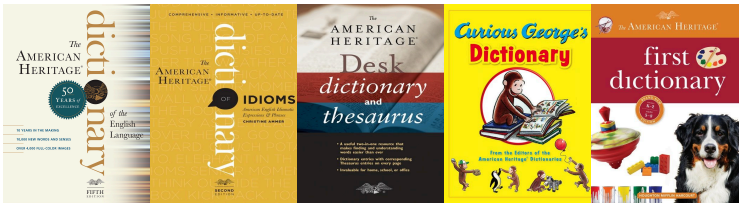
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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