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bur·go·mas·ter  (bûr gə-măs'tər)

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n.

The principal magistrate, comparable to a mayor, of a city or town in the Netherlands, Flanders, Austria, or Germany.

[Partial translation of Dutch *burgemeester* : *burg*, town (from Middle Dutch *burch*; see **bhergh**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *meester*, master.]

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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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