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cham·fer  (chăm far)

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tr.v. **cham·fered**, **cham·fer·ing**, **cham·fers**

1. To cut off the edge or corner of; bevel.
2. To cut a groove in; flute.

n.

1. A flat surface made by cutting off the edge or corner of a block of wood or other material.
2. A furrow or groove, as in a column.

[Probably back-formation from *chamfering*, from French *chanfrein*, bevelled edge, from past participle of Old French *chanfreindre*, to bevel : *chant*, edge (from Latin *canthus*, iron tire; see [CANT](#)¹) + *fraindre*, to break (from Latin *frangere*; see [bhreg-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

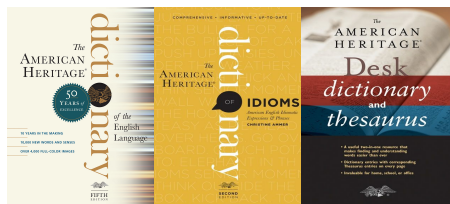
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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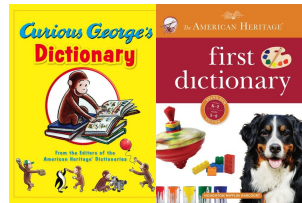
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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