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dow·el  (dou əl)

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n.

1. A usually round pin that fits tightly into a corresponding hole to fasten or align two adjacent pieces.
2. A piece of wood driven into a wall to act as an anchor for nails.

tr.v. **dow·eled**, **dow·el·ing**, **dow·els** also **dow·elled** or **dow·el·ing**

1. To fasten or align with dowels: *table legs that are doweled to the top.*
2. To equip with dowels.

[Middle English *doyle*, part of a wheel, perhaps from Middle Low German *dovel*, plug, or from Old French *doele*, barrel stave (diminutive of *douve*, from Late Latin *doga*, vessel, from Greek *dokhē*, receptacle, from *dekhesthai*, to take; see **dek-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

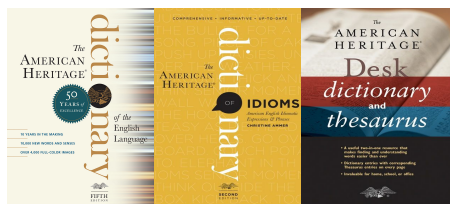
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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