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dictionary

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Language



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tale  (tāl)

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n.

1. A recital of events or happenings; a report or revelation: *told us a long tale of woe.*
2. A malicious story, piece of gossip, or petty complaint.
3. A deliberate lie; a falsehood.
4. A narrative of real or imaginary events; a story.
5. *Archaic* A tally or reckoning; a total.

[Middle English, from Old English *talū*; see **del-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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