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dictionary

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mas·to·don  (măś tə-dŏn') also **mas·to·dont** (-dŏnt')

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n.

Any of several very large, extinct proboscidian mammals of the family Mammutidae of the Miocene, Pliocene, and Pleistocene Epochs, resembling elephants but having molar teeth of a different structure.

[New Latin *Mastodōn*, genus name : Greek *mastos*, breast, nipple + Greek *odōn*, tooth (from the nipple-shaped protrusions on the crowns of its molars); see **dent-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

mas'to·don *ic adj.*

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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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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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