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tart¹  (tärt)

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adj. **tart·er, tart·est**

1. Having a sharp pungent taste; sour. See Synonyms at [sour](#).
2. Sharp or bitter in tone or meaning; cutting.

[Middle English, from Old English *teart*, severe; see **der-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

tart *ly adv.*

tart *ness n.*

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tart²  (tärt)

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n.

1.

a. A pastry shell with shallow sides, no top crust, and any of various fillings.

b. *Chiefly British* A pie.

2.

a. A prostitute.

b. A woman considered to be sexually promiscuous.

tr.v. **tart·ed, tart·ing, tarts**

Chiefly British

To dress up or make fancy in a tawdry, garish way. Often used with *up*.

[Middle English *tarte*, from Old French, probably variant of *tourte*, from Late Latin *tōrta*, a kind of bread; see [TORTILLA](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

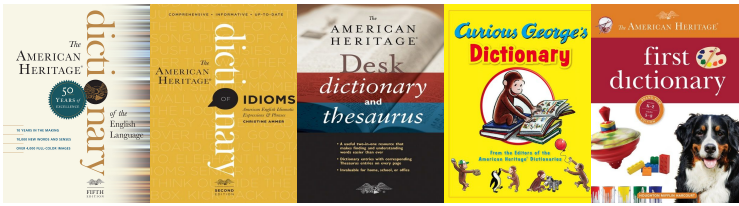
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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