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dra·goon  (drə-g n , dră-)

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n.

A member of a European military unit trained and armed to fight mounted or on foot.

tr.v. **dra·gooned**, **dra·goon·ing**, **dra·goons**

1. To subjugate or persecute by the imposition of troops.
2. To compel by violent measures or threats; coerce.

[French *dragon*, from Middle French *dragon*, mounted infantry soldier armed with a harquebus, from *dragon*, dragon (such infantry perhaps being so called because an early unit used a dragon as its standard, or because such infantry were thought to “breathe fire”), from Old French; see [DRAGON](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

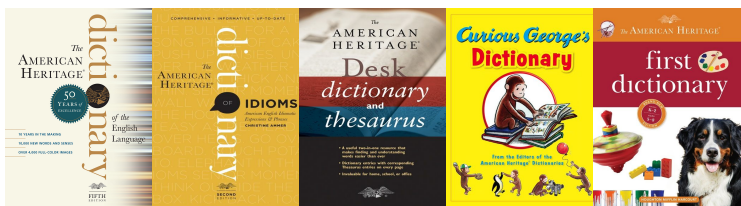
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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