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tar¹ 🗣️ (tär)

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n.

1. A dark, oily, viscous material, consisting mainly of hydrocarbons, produced by the destructive distillation of organic substances such as wood, coal, or peat.

2. See [coal tar](#).

3. A solid residue of tobacco smoke containing byproducts of combustion.

tr.v. **tarred**, **tar·ring**, **tars**

To coat with or as if with tar.

Idioms:

tar and feather

1. To punish (a person) by covering with tar and feathers.

2. To criticize severely and devastatingly; excoriate.

tarred with the same brush

Considered or described as having the same faults or bad qualities.

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

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tar² 🗣️ (tär)

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n.

Informal

A sailor.

[Possibly short for [TARPAULIN](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

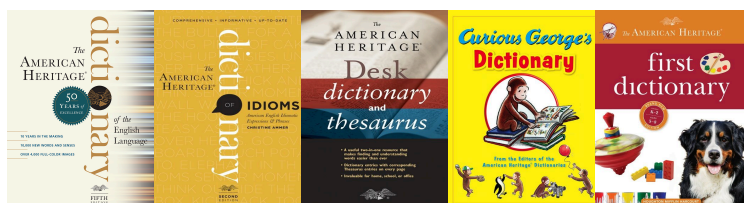
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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