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sconce¹  (skõns)

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n.

A small defensive earthwork or fort.

[Dutch *schans*, from German *Schanze*, from Middle High German *schanse*, *schantze*, bundle of twigs, wattle, sconse (such as made from earth and wattle), of unknown origin.]

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sconce²  (skõns)

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n.

1. A decorative wall bracket for holding candles or lights.
2. A flattened candlestick that has a handle.
3. *Slang* The human head or skull.

[Middle English, from Old French *esconse*, lantern, hiding place, from Medieval Latin *scōnsa*, from Latin *abscōnsa*, feminine past participle of *abscondere*, to hide away : *ab-*, *abs-*, away; see [AB-](#)¹ + *condere*, to preserve; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

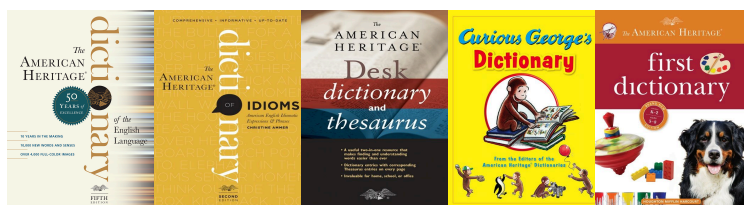
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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