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tu·bi·fex  (t bə-fěks', ty -)

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n. pl. **tubifex** or **tu·bi·fex·es**

Any of various small slender reddish freshwater worms of the genus *Tubifex*, often used as food for tropical aquarium fish.

[New Latin *Tubifex*, genus name : Latin *tubus*, tube + Latin *-fex*, maker; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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