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Rus·sian  (rŭsh ən)

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- adj.*
1. Of or relating to Russia or its people, language, or culture.
 2. Of or relating to the former Soviet Union.
- n.*
1.
 - a. A native or inhabitant of Russia.
 - b. A person of Russian ancestry.
 - c. A native or inhabitant of the former Soviet Union.
 2. The East Slavic language of the Russians, used as the official language of Russia and widely as a second language within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

[Medieval Latin *Russiānus*, from Old Russian *Rusĭ*, Vikings, *Rus*, from Old Norse **rōdhs(menn)* or *rōdhs(karlar)*, seafarers, from *rōdhr*, rowing; see *era-* [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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