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Language



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keel¹  (kēl)

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n.

1. Nautical

a. The principal structural member of a boat or ship, running along the center of the hull from bow to stern, to which the ribs are attached.

b. A projecting ridge or fin on the bottom of the hull of a boat or ship that improves directional control and is often weighted for added stability.

2. The principal structural member of an aircraft, resembling a ship's keel in shape and function.

3. A structure, such as the breastbone of a bird, that resembles a ship's keel in function or shape.

4. A pair of united petals in certain flowers, as those of many members of the pea family.

intr. & tr.v. **keeled, keel-ing, keels**

Nautical

To capsize or cause to capsize.

Phrasal Verb:

keel over

To collapse or fall into or as if into a faint.

[Middle English *kele*, from Old Norse *kjölr*.]

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keel²  (kēl)

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n.

1. Nautical

a. A sail-powered barge, especially one historically used on the rivers of northern England.

b. The load capacity of this barge.

2. A British unit of weight formerly used for coal, equal to about 21.2 long tons.

[Middle English *kele*, from Middle Dutch *kiel*.]

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keel³  (kēl)

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tr.v. **keeled, keel-ing, keels**

Chiefly British

To make cool.

[Middle English *kelen*, from Old English *cēlan*, to cool; see **gel-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

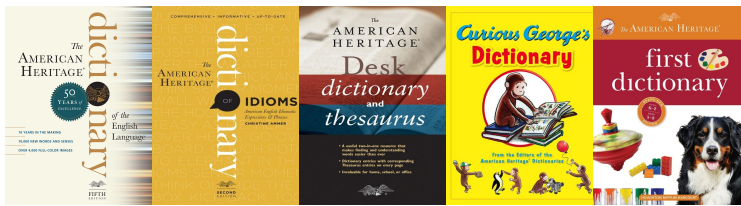
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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