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crawl ¹ (krôl)

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intr.v. **crawled**, **crawl·ing**, **crawls**

1. To move slowly on the hands and knees or by dragging the body along the ground; creep: *The baby crawled across the floor.*
2. To advance slowly, feebly, laboriously, or with frequent stops: *We crawled along in traffic until we reached the highway.*
3. To proceed or act servilely: *"She was going to come crawling back to me, eloquently detailing exactly how sorry she was" (Emily Griffin).*
4. To be or feel as if swarming or covered with moving things: *The accident scene was crawling with police officers. My flesh crawled in horror.*
5. To swim the crawl.

n.

1. The action of moving slowly on the hands or knees or dragging the body along the ground.
2. An extremely slow pace: *Traffic was moving at a crawl.*
3. *Sports* A rapid swimming stroke consisting of alternating overarm strokes and a flutter kick.
4. A set of letters or figures that move across, up, or down a movie or television screen, usually giving information, such as film credits or weather alerts. Also called *crawler*.
5. A social activity that consists of going to a series of related establishments one after the other: *a bar crawl; a museum crawl.*

[Middle English *craulen*, from Old Norse *krafla*; see **gerbh-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

crawl **ing·ly** *adv.*

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crawl ² (krôl)

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n.

Archaic

A pen in shallow water, as for confining fish or turtles.

[Afrikaans *kraal*, enclosure for animals; see [KRAAL](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

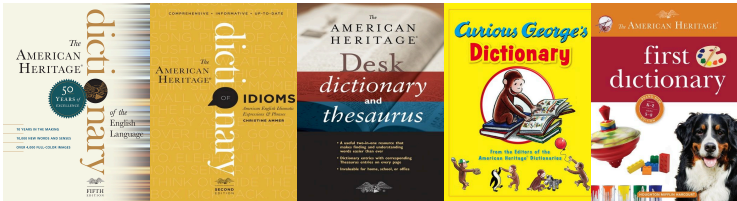
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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