



The
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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crane  (krān)

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n.

1.

a. Any of various large wading birds of the family Gruidae, having a long neck, long legs, and a long bill.

b. A similar bird, such as a heron.

2. A machine for hoisting and moving heavy objects by means of cables attached to a movable boom.

3. Any of various devices with a swinging arm, as in a fireplace for suspending a pot.

v. **craned, cran-ing, cranes**

v.tr.

1. To hoist or move with or as if with a crane.

2. To strain and stretch (the neck, for example) in order to see better.

v.intr.

1. To stretch one's neck toward something for a better view.

2. To be irresolute; hesitate.

[Middle English, from Old English *cran*; see **gera-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

crane

top: gray crowned crane

Balearica regulorum

bottom: mechanical crane at a construction site



(click for a larger image)

crane

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Crane, Stephen 1871-1900.

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American writer whose works include *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895) and the short story "The Open Boat" (1898).

Crane 🦅 (krān), (**Harold**) Hart 1899-1932.

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American poet whose works, including *The Bridge* (1930), celebrate America's cultural past, present, and future.

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

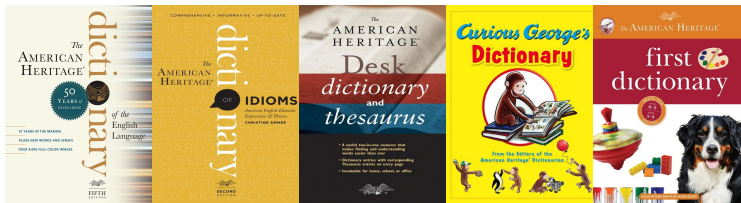
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[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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