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gav·el¹  (găv əl)

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n.

1. A small mallet, especially:

a. One that a judge or presiding officer raps to signal for order.

b. One that an auctioneer raps to mark the end of a transaction.

2. A maul used by masons in fitting stones.

tr.v. **gav·eled**, **gav·el·ing**, **gav·els** also **gav·elled** or **gav·el·ling**

To bring about or compel by using a gavel: "*The chairman ... tries to gavel the demonstration to an end*" (*New Yorker*).

[Origin unknown.]



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gavel¹

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gav·el²  (găv əl)

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n.

Tribute or rent in ancient and medieval England.

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

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

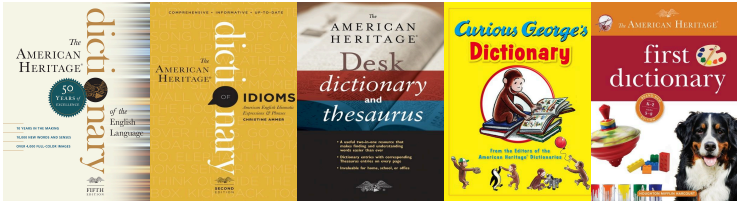
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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