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gall ¹  (gôl)

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n.

1. Outrageous insolence; effrontery: *After borrowing my car, he had the gall to complain about its seats.*

2.

a. Bitterness of feeling; rancor.

b. Something bitter to endure: *the gall of defeat.*

3. See [bile](#).

[Middle English *galle*, gallbladder, bile, courage, from Old English *gealla*, *galla*, bile; see **ghel**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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gall ²  (gôl)

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n.

1. A skin sore caused by friction and abrasion: *a saddle gall.*

2.

a. Exasperation; vexation.

b. The cause of such vexation.

v. **galled**, **gall·ing**, **galls**

v.tr.

1. To irk or exasperate; vex: *It galled me to have to wait outside.*

2. To wear away or make sore by abrasion; chafe:

v.intr.

To become worn or sore by abrasion.

[Middle English *galle*, from Old English *gealla*, possibly from Latin *galla*, nutgall.]

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gall ³  (gôl)

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n.

An abnormal growth of plant tissue caused by an organism, such as an insect, mite, or bacterium, or by a wound.

[Middle English *galle*, from Old French, from Latin *galla*, nutgall.]



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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

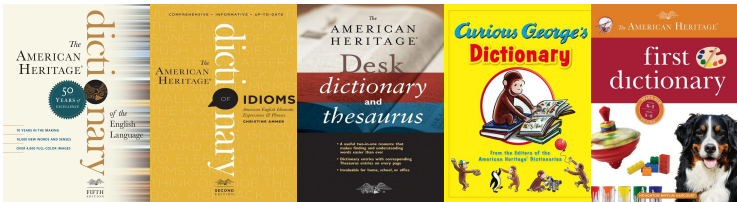
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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