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gird¹  (gûrd)

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v. **gird·ed** or **girt** (gûrt), **gird·ing**, **girds**

v.tr.

1.

a. To encircle (a person or the part of the body) with a belt or band.

b. To fasten or secure (clothing, for example) with a belt or band.

c. To surround.

2. To prepare (oneself) for action.

v.intr.

To prepare for action: "*Men still spoke of peace but girded more sternly for war*" (W. Bruce Lincoln).

Idiom:

gird (up) (one's) loins

To summon up one's inner resources in preparation for action.

[Middle English *girden*, from Old English *gyrdan*; see **gher**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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gird²  (gûrd)

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intr. & tr.v. **gird·ed**, **gird·ing**, **girds**

To jeer or jeer at.

n.

A sarcastic remark.

[Middle English *girden*, to strike.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

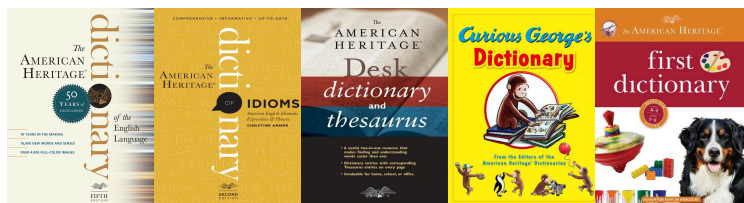
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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