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gir·dle  (gûr dl)

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n.

1.

a. A belt or sash worn around the waist.

b. Something that encircles like a belt.

c. An elasticized, flexible undergarment worn over the waist and hips to give the body a more slender appearance.

2. A band made around the trunk of a tree by the removal of a strip of bark.

3. The edge of a cut gem held by the setting.

4. *Anatomy* The pelvic or pectoral girdle.

tr.v. **gir·dled**, **gir·dling**, **gir·dles**

1. To encircle with a belt.

2. To form a circle around: *a ring of hills that girdled the city.*

3. To remove a band of bark and cambium from the circumference of (a tree), usually in order to kill it.

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



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girdle

brilliant-cut gemstone

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

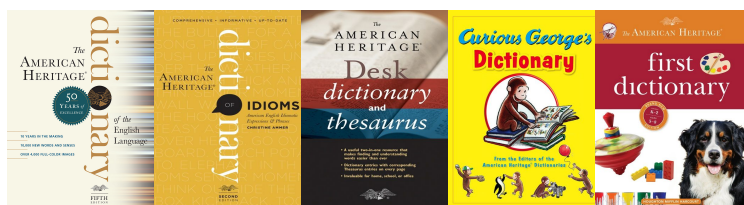
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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