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cour·te·san  (kôr tĭ-zən)

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n.

A woman prostitute, especially one whose clients are members of a royal court or men of high social standing.

[French *courtisane*, from Old French, from Old Italian *cortigiana*, feminine of *cortigiano*, courtier, from *corte*, court, from Latin *cohors*, *cohort-*; see **gher-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

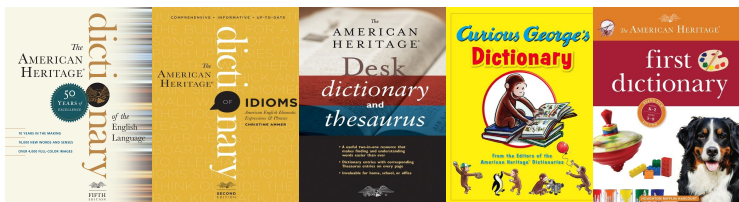
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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