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cord  (kôrd)

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n.

1. A slender length of flexible material usually made of twisted strands or fibers and used to bind, tie, connect, or support. See Usage Note at [chord](#)¹.
2. An insulated flexible electric wire fitted with a plug or plugs.
3. A hangman's rope.
4. An influence, feeling, or force that binds or restrains; a bond or tie.
5. also **chord** *Anatomy* A long ropelike structure, such as a nerve or tendon: *a spinal cord*.
6.
 - a. A raised rib on the surface of cloth.
 - b. A fabric or cloth with such ribs.
7. **cords** Pants made of corduroy.
8. A unit of quantity for cut fuel wood, equal to a stack measuring 4 × 4 × 8 feet or 128 cubic feet (3.62 cubic meters).

tr.v. **cord·ed, cord·ing, cords**

1. To fasten or bind with a cord: *corded the stack of old newspapers and placed them in the recycling bin*.
2. To furnish with a cord.
3. To pile (wood) in cords.

[Middle English, from Old French *corde*, from Latin *chorda*, from Greek *khordē*, gut, string made from gut; see **gherā-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots. Noun, sense 8, so called because the size of a cord pile of wood was originally measured with a cord of rope.]

cord *er n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

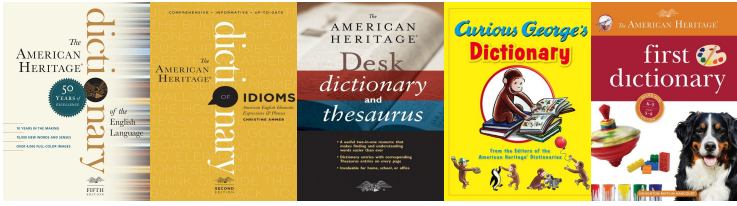
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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