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bal·lis·ta  (bə-līs tə)

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n. pl. bal·lis·tae (-tē')

An ancient and medieval engine of warfare, usually having a design similar to a crossbow, used to hurl heavy projectiles.

[Latin, from Greek *ballistēs*, from *ballein*, to throw; see **g^wela-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

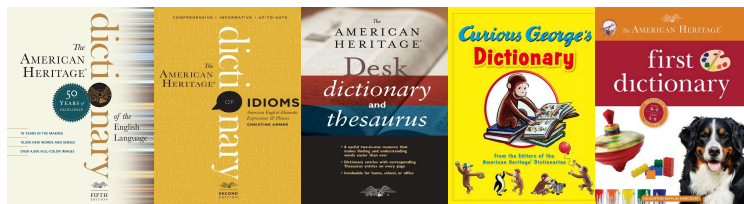
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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