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boule²  (b l)

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n.

1.

a. often **boules** (b l) Any of several related bowling games, such as bocce or pétanque, traditionally played on an outdoor court.

b. The ball used in one of these games.

2. A round loaf of bread.

3. A pear-shaped synthetic sapphire, ruby, or other alumina-based gem, produced by fusing and tinting alumina.

[French, ball, boule, from Old French, ball, from Latin *bulla*, rounded object, bubble.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

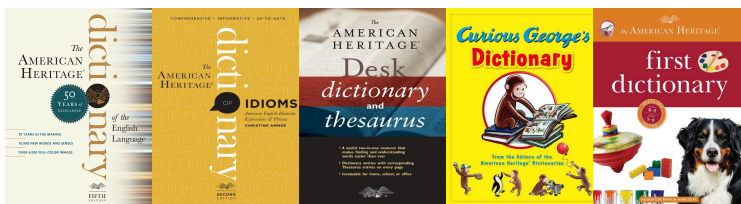
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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