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quail¹  (kwāl)

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n. pl. quail or quails

1. Any of various primarily ground-dwelling birds of the genus *Coturnix*, especially *C. coturnix*, small in size and having mottled brown plumage and a short tail. Also called *coturnix*.
2. Any of various similar or related birds of the Americas, such as the bobwhite or the California quail.

[Middle English *quaile*, from Anglo-Norman, from Vulgar Latin **quaccula* (attested in Medieval Latin as *quaccola*), of imitative origin.]



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quail¹

male California quail
Callipepla californica

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quail²  (kwāl)

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intr.v. quailed, quail-ing, quails

To shrink back in fear; cower.

[Middle English *quailen*, to give way, probably from Middle Dutch *quelen*, to suffer, be ill; see **g^wela-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

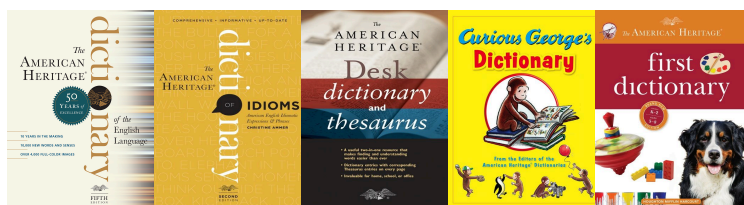
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