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for·ceps  (fôr səps, -sěps)

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n. pl. forceps

1. An instrument resembling a pair of pincers or tongs, used for grasping, manipulating, or extracting, especially such an instrument used by a surgeon.
2. A pincerlike pair of movable appendages at the posterior end of the abdomen in certain insects, such as earwigs.

[Latin, fire tongs, pincers; see **g^wher-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

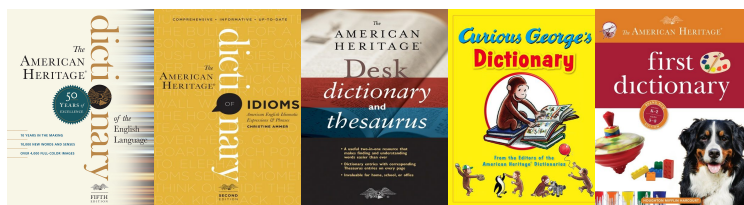
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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