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but·ter  (bŭt ər)

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n.

1. A soft yellowish or whitish emulsion of butterfat, water, air, and sometimes salt, churned from milk or cream and processed for use in cooking and as a food.

2. Any of various substances similar to butter, especially:

a. A spread made from fruit, nuts, or other foods: *plum butter*; *cashew butter*.

b. A vegetable fat having a nearly solid consistency at ordinary temperatures.

3. Flattery.

tr.v. **but·tered, but·ter·ing, but·ters**

To put butter on or in.

Phrasal Verb:

butter up

To praise or flatter excessively: *You're always buttering up the boss.*

[Middle English *butere*, from Old English, from Latin *būtȳrum*, from Greek *boutūron* : *bous*, cow; see **g^wou-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots + *tūros*, cheese; see **teuə-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

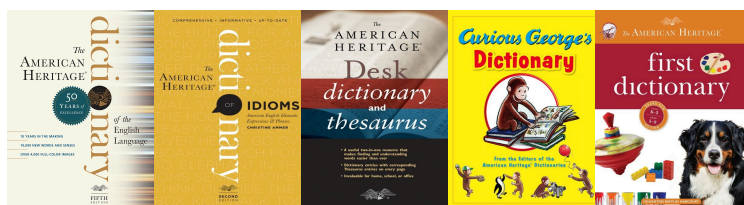
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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