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boy  (boi)

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n.

1. A male child.
2. A son: *his youngest boy*.
3. *Often Offensive* A man, especially a young man.
4. *Informal* A man socializing in a group of men: *a night out with the boys*.
5. *Offensive* A male servant or employee.

interj.

Used to express mild astonishment, elation, or disgust: *Oh boy—what a surprise!*

[Middle English *boi*, male servant, churl, young male, possibly from Old French *embuié*, person in fetters, from past participle of *embruier*, to fetter, from *buie*, fetter, shackle, from Latin *bōia*, collar or yoke used to restrain criminals, probably from Greek *boiā* (*dorā*), (skin) of an ox, an ox hide (such restraints being made from ox hide), from feminine of *boeios*, of an ox or oxen, of ox hide, from *bous*, ox; see **g^wou-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

boy **hood'** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

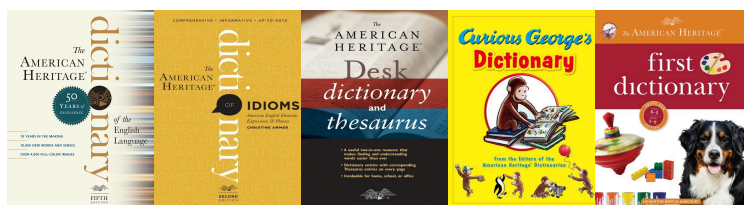
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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