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ilk¹ (ɪlk)

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n.

Type or kind: *can't trust people of that ilk.*

pron.

Scots

The same. Used following a name to indicate that the one named resides in an area bearing the same name: *Duncan of that ilk.*

[Middle English *ilke*, same, from Old English *ilca*; see *i-* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Word History: When one uses *ilk*, as in the phrase *men of his ilk*, one is using a word with an ancient pedigree even though the sense of *ilk*, "kind or sort," is actually quite recent, having been first recorded at the end of the 18th century. This sense grew out of an older use of *ilk* in the phrase *of that ilk*, meaning "of the same place, territorial designation, or name." This phrase was used chiefly in names of landed families, *Guthrie of that ilk* meaning "Guthrie of Guthrie." "Same" is the fundamental meaning of the word. The ancestors of *ilk*, Old English *ilca* and Middle English *ilke*, were common words, usually appearing with such words as *the* or *that*, but the word hardly survived the Middle Ages in those uses.

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ilk² (ɪlk)

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adj.

Variant of [ilka](#).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

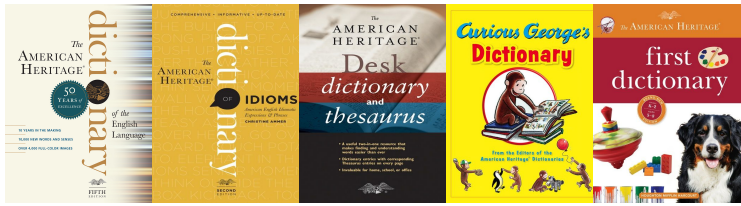
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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