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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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chute  (sh t)

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n.

1.

a. An inclined trough, passage, or channel through or down which things may pass.

b. A narrow, usually fenced passage for horses or cattle.

c. A usually straight extension of one side of an oval racetrack, used to start certain longer races so that the finish line can be kept on a straightaway in front of the stands or clubhouse.

d. A gated stall that is used to hold and release animals into an open area, especially horses and steers being ridden in a rodeo.

2. A waterfall or rapid.

3. A parachute.

v. **chut·ed, chut·ing, chutes**

v.tr.

To convey or deposit by a chute.

v.intr.

To go or descend by a chute.

Idiom:

out of the chute

At the very beginning; right away: *Sales were strong right out of the chute.*

[French, a fall, alteration (influenced by *chu*) of Old French *cheoite*, from feminine past participle of *cheoir*, to fall, from Vulgar Latin **cadēre*, from Latin *cadere*; see **kad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#). Sense 3, short for [PARACHUTE](#).]

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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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