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Language



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es·cheat  (ĭs-chēt)

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n.

1. Reversion of land held under feudal tenure to the manor in the absence of legal heirs or claimants.

2. *Law*

a. Reversion of property to the state in the absence of legal heirs or claimants.

b. Property that has reverted to the state when no legal heirs or claimants exist.

intr. & tr.v. **es·cheat·ed**, **es·cheat·ing**, **es·cheats**

Law

To revert or cause to revert by escheat.

[Middle English *eschete*, from Old French (from *escheoir*, to fall out) and from Anglo-Latin *escheta*, both from Vulgar Latin **excadēre*, to fall out : Latin *ex-*, *ex-* + Latin *cadere*, to fall; see **kad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

es·cheat a·ble *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

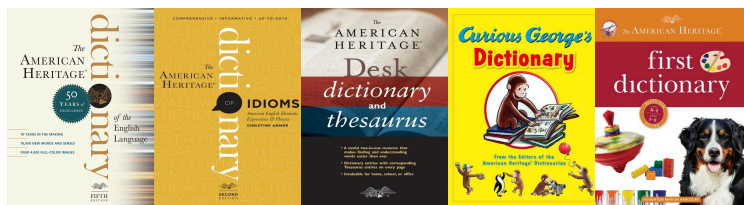
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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