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ces·tus¹  (sĕs tās)

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n. pl. ces·ti (-tī)

A woman's belt or girdle, especially as worn in ancient Greece.

[Latin, belt, from Greek *kestos*; see **kent-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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ces·tus² also **caes·tus**  (sĕs tās)

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n. pl. ces·tus·es also *caes·tus·es*

A covering for the hand made of leather straps weighted with iron or lead and worn by boxers in ancient Rome.

[Latin *caestus*, from *caedere*, to strike; see **kæ-id-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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