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gaff¹  (găf)

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n.

1. A large iron hook attached to a pole or handle and used to land large fish.
2. *Nautical* A spar attached to a mast and used to extend the upper edge of a fore-and-aft sail.
3.
 - a. A sharp metal spur or spike fastened to the leg of a gamecock.
 - b. A climbing hook used by telephone and electric line workers.
4. *Slang* A trick or gimmick, especially one used in a swindle or to rig a game.
5. A tight-fitting undergarment designed to secure the male genitals between the legs and create the appearance of a smooth crotch.
6. *Slang* Harshness of treatment; abuse.

tr.v. **gaffed**, **gaf-fing**, **gaffs**

1. To hook or land (a fish) using a gaff.
2. To equip (a gamecock) with a gaff.
3. *Slang*
 - a. To take in or defraud; swindle.
 - b. To rig or fix in order to cheat: *knew that the carnival games had been gaffed.*

[Middle English *gaffe*, from Old French, from Old Provençal *gaf*, from *gafar*, to seize, of Germanic origin; see [kap- in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#). Noun, senses 4 and 5, and verb, senses 3a and 3b, probably from the spurred, ink-filled rings used by card sharpers to secretly mark cards.]



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gaff¹

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gaff²  (găf)

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n.

Chiefly British

1. A public place of entertainment, especially a cheap or disreputable music hall or theater.
2. *Slang* A house, building, or apartment, especially where one resides.

[Origin unknown.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

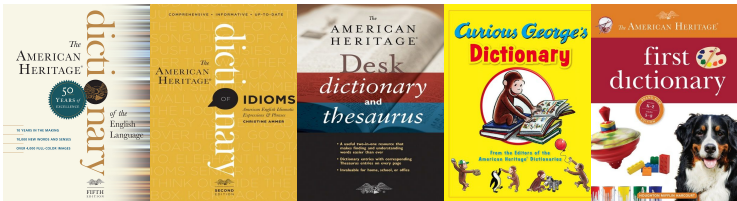
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Indo-European Roots

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