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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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het·man  (hět mən)

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n. pl. het·mans

See [ataman](#).

[Ukrainian *het'man*, from Polish *hetman*, from German dialectal *hötmann*, *hetmann*, captain; akin to German *Hauptmann*, from Middle High German *houbetman* : *houbet*, head (from Old High German *houbit*; see **kaput-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *man*, man (from Old High German; see [FUGLEMAN](#)).]

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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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