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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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[guide to the dictionary](#)



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**chan·cre**  (shǎng kər)

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*n.*

1. A dull red, hard, insensitive lesion that is the first manifestation of syphilis.
2. An ulcer located at the initial point of entry of a pathogen.

[French, from Old French, from Latin *cancer*, tumor, crab; see **kar-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

**chan crous** (-krəs) *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:

[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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