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hook  (h k)

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n.

1.

a. A curved or sharply bent device, usually of metal, used to catch, drag, suspend, or fasten something else.

b. A fishhook.

2. Something shaped like a hook, especially:

a. A curved or barbed plant or animal part.

b. A short angled or curved line on a letter.

c. A sickle.

3.

a. A sharp bend or curve, as in a river.

b. A point or spit of land with a sharply curved end.

4. A means of catching or ensnaring; a trap.

5. *Slang*

a. A means of attracting interest or attention; an enticement: *a sales hook*.

b. *Music* A catchy motif or refrain: "*sugary hard rock melodies [and] ear candy hooks*" (*Boston Globe*).

6. *Sports*

a. A short swinging blow in boxing delivered with a crooked arm.

b. The course of a ball that curves in a direction away from the dominant hand of the player propelling it, as to the left of a right-handed player.

c. A stroke that sends a ball on such a course.

d. A ball propelled on such a course.

e. In surfing, the lip of a breaking wave.

7. *Baseball* A curve ball.

8. *Basketball* A hook shot.

v. **hooked, hook·ing, hooks**

v.tr.

1.

a. To catch, suspend, or connect with a hook.

b. *Informal* To snare.

c. *Slang* To steal; snatch.

2. To fasten by a hook.

3. To pierce or gore with a hook.

4. *Slang*

a. To take strong hold of; captivate: *a novel that hooked me on the very first page*.

b. To cause to become addicted.

5. To make (a rug) by looping yarn through canvas with a type of hook.

6. *Sports*

a. To hit with a hook in boxing.

b. To hit (a golf ball) in a hook.

7. *Baseball* To pitch (a ball) with a curve.

8. *Basketball* To shoot (a ball) in a hook shot.

9. *Sports* To impede the progress of (an opponent in ice hockey) by holding or restraining the player with one's stick, in violation of the rules.

v.intr.

1. To bend like a hook.
2. To fasten by means of a hook or a hook and eye.
3. *Slang* To work as a prostitute.

Phrasal Verb:

hook up

1. To assemble or wire (a mechanism).
2. To connect a mechanism and a source of power.
3. *Slang*
 - a. To meet or associate: *We agreed to hook up after class. He hooked up with the wrong crowd.*
 - b. To become sexually involved with someone, especially casually.
 - c. To marry or get married.

Idioms:

by hook or by crook

By whatever means possible, fair or unfair.

get the hook *Slang*

To be unceremoniously dismissed or terminated.

hook, line, and sinker *Informal*

Without reservation; completely: *swallowed the excuse hook, line, and sinker.*

off the hook *Informal*

Freed, as from blame or a vexatious obligation: *let me off the hook with a mild reprimand.*

on (one's) own hook

By one's own efforts.

[Middle English *hok*, from Old English *hōc*; see **keg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

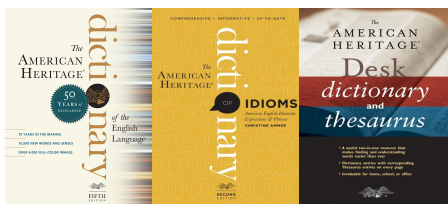
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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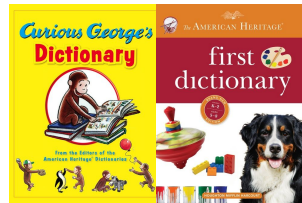
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