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English
Language



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co·le·op·tile  (kō'lē-ŏp tĭl, kŏl'ē-)

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n.

A protective sheath enclosing the shoot tip and embryonic leaves of grasses.

[From New Latin *coleoptilum* : Greek *koleon*, sheath; see *kel*-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + Greek *ptilon*, plume; see *pet*- [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

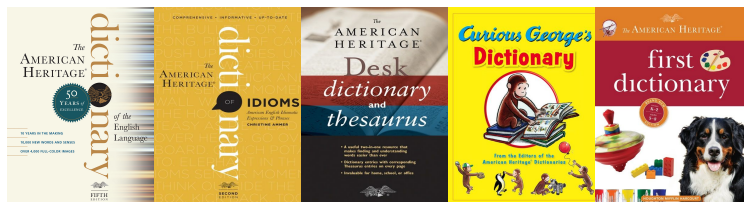
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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