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helm ¹ (hĕlm)

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n.

1. *Nautical* The steering gear of a ship, especially the tiller or wheel.
2. A position of leadership or control: *at the helm of the government*.

tr.v. **helmed**, **helm-ing**, **helms**

To take the helm of; steer or direct.

[Middle English, from Old English *helma*.]

helm *er n.*

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helm ² (hĕlm) *Archaic*

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n.

A helmet.

tr.v. **helmed**, **helm-ing**, **helms**

To cover or furnish with a helmet.

[Middle English, from Old English; see **kel**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

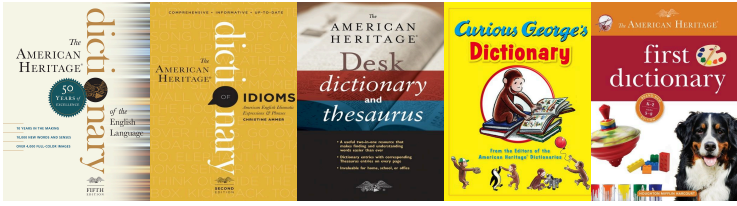
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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