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car·rot  (kăĕr ət)

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n.

1. A biennial Eurasian plant (*Daucus carota* subsp. *sativus*) in the parsley family, widely cultivated as an annual for its edible taproot.
2. The usually tapering, elongate, fleshy orange root of this plant, eaten as a vegetable.
3. Queen Anne's lace.
4. A reward offered for desired behavior; an inducement: "*The U.S. should use a moratorium on SDI development as a carrot to bring an acceptable offensive arms limitation*" (C. Peter Gall).

[French *carotte*, from Old French *garroite*, from Latin *carōta*, from Greek *karōton*; see **ker-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

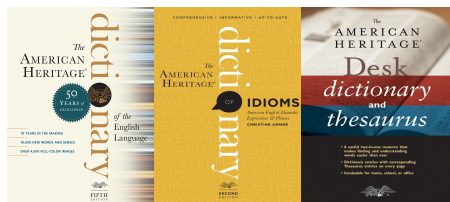
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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