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AMERICAN
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dictionary

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Language



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cra·ni·um  (krā nē-əm)

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n. pl. cra·ni·ums or cra·ni·a (-nē-ə)

1. The skull.
2. The portion of the skull enclosing the brain; the braincase.

[Middle English *craneum*, from Medieval Latin *crānium*, from Greek *krānion*; 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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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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