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car·at  (kär ət)

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n. **Abbr.** **c** or **car**.

1. A unit of weight for precious stones, equal to 200 milligrams.
2. Variant of [karat](#).

[Middle English, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *quarātus*, from Arabic *qīrāt*, a measure of weight, from Greek *kerātion*, carob pod, a measure of weight (originally defined in reference to a dried carob seed), from diminutive of *keras*, *kerāt-*, horn (from the pod's shape); 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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