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dictionary

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Language



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ce·re·al  (sîr ē-əl)

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n.

1.

a. A grass such as wheat, oats, or corn, the starchy grains of which are used as food.

b. The grain of such a grass.

2. Any of several other plants or their edible seeds or fruit, such as buckwheat or certain species of amaranth.

3. A food prepared from any of these plants, especially a breakfast food made from commercially processed grain.

adj.

Consisting of or relating to grain or to a plant producing grain.

[From Latin *cereālis*, of grain, from *Cerēs*, Ceres; see **ker-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

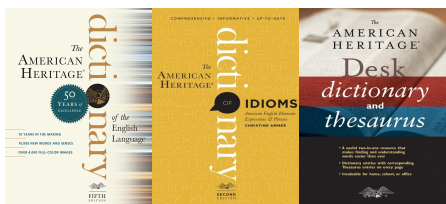
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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