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cres·cent  (krēs ənt)

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n.

1. The figure of the moon as it appears before its first quarter phase or after its third quarter phase, with concave and convex edges terminating in points.

2.

a. A curved street.

b. A curved block of buildings, especially row houses, forming a continuous facade.

3. A curved pastry.

adj.

1. Crescent-shaped.

2. Waxing, as the moon approaching its first quarter phase; increasing.

[Middle English *cressaunt*, from Anglo-Norman, variant of Old French *creissant*, from present participle of *creistre*, to grow, from Latin *crēscere*; see **ker-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cres·cen tic (krə-sĕn tĭk) *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

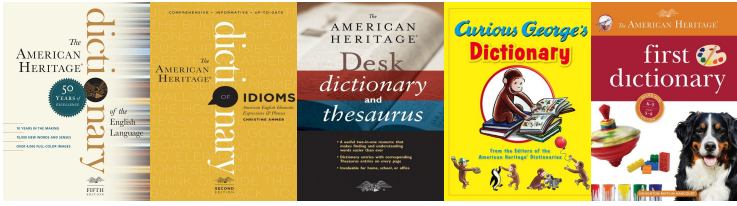
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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