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dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**coast**  (kōst)

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- n.*
- a.** Land next to the sea; the seashore.
  - b.** The water near this land: *fish of the Atlantic coast*.
  - c. Coast** The Pacific coast of the United States.
  - 2.** A hill or other slope down which one may coast, as on a sled.
  - 3.** The act of sliding or coasting; slide.
  - 4. Obsolete** The frontier or border of a country.
- v.* **coast-ed, coast-ing, coasts**
- v.intr.*
- 1.**
  - a.** To slide down an incline through the effect of gravity.
  - b.** To move without use of propelling power. See Synonyms at [slide](#).
  - 2.** To act or move aimlessly or with little effort: *coasted for a few weeks before applying for a job*.
  - 3. Nautical** To sail near or along a coast.
- v.tr.*
- Nautical*
- To sail or move along the coast or border of.

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[Middle English *coste*, from Old French, from Latin *costa*, side; see **kost-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**coast al** (kō stəl) *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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