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crus·ta·cean  (krŭ-stā shən)

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n.

Any of various predominantly aquatic arthropods of the subphylum (or class) Crustacea, including lobsters, crabs, shrimps, and barnacles, characteristically having a segmented body, a chitinous exoskeleton, paired jointed limbs, and two pairs of antennae.

[From New Latin *Crŭstācea*, class name, neuter pl. of *crŭstāceus*, hard-shelled, from Latin *crusta*, shell; see **kreus-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

crus·ta cean *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](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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