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dictionary

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Sput-nik  (sp t nĭk, spŭt -, sp t nyĭk)

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n.

Any of a series of Soviet satellites sent into Earth orbit, especially the first, launched October 4, 1957.

[Russian *sputnik (zemli)*, fellow traveler (of Earth) : *so-*, *s-*, together; see **ksun** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *put'*, path, way; see **pent-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *-nik*, *n.* suff.]

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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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