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chee·tah  (chē tə)

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n.

A long-legged, swift-running wild cat (*Acinonyx jubatus*) of Africa and southwest Asia, having tawny, black-spotted fur and nonretractile claws. The cheetah, the fastest animal on land, can run for short distances at about 96 kilometers (60 miles) per hour.

[Hindi *cītā*, from Sanskrit *citrakāyaḥ*, tiger, leopard : *citra-*, variegated + *kāyaḥ*, body; see *k^wei-2* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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cheetah

Acinonyx jubatus

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

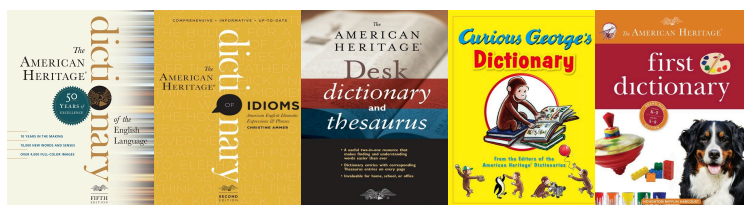
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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