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pul·ley  (p l ē)

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n. pl. pul·leys

1. A simple machine consisting essentially of a wheel with a grooved rim in which a pulled rope or chain can run to change the direction of the pull, for example to lift a load.
2. A wheel turned by or driving a belt.

[Middle English *poley*, from Old French *polie* and from Medieval Latin *poliva*, both ultimately from Greek *polos*, axis; see **k^wel-¹** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

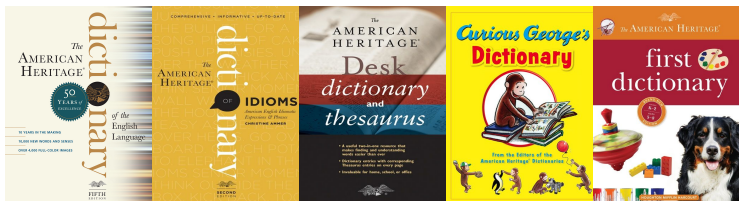
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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