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pole¹  (pōl)

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n.

1. Either extremity of an axis through a sphere.
2. Either of the regions contiguous to the extremities of the earth's rotational axis, the North Pole or the South Pole.
3. *Physics* See [magnetic pole](#).
4. *Electricity* Either of two oppositely charged terminals, as in an electric cell or battery.
5. *Astronomy* See [celestial pole](#).
6. *Biology*
 - a. Either extremity of the main axis of a nucleus, cell, or organism.
 - b. Either end of the spindle formed in a cell during mitosis.
 - c. The point on a nerve cell where a process originates.
7. Either of two antithetical ideas, propensities, forces, or positions.
8. A fixed point of reference.
9. *Mathematics*
 - a. The origin in a polar coordinate system; the vertex of a polar angle.
 - b. A point in the complex plane at which a given function is not defined.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *polus*, from Greek *polos*, axis, sky; see **k^wel-¹** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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pole²  (pōl)

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n.

1. A long, relatively slender, generally rounded piece of wood or other material.
 2. The long tapering wooden shaft extending up from the front axle of a vehicle to the collars of the animals drawing it; a tongue.
 3.
 - a. See [rod](#).
 - b. A unit of area equal to a square rod.
 4. *Sports* The inside position on the starting line of a racetrack: *qualified in the time trials to start on the pole*.
- v. poled, pol-ing, poles*
- v.tr.*
1.
 - a. To propel with a pole: *boatmen poling barges up a placid river*.
 - b. To propel (oneself) or make (one's way) by the use of ski poles: *"We ski through the glades on corn snow, then pole our way over a long one-hour runout to a road" (Frederick Selby)*.
 2. To support (plants) with a pole.
 3. To strike, poke, or stir with a pole.
- v.intr.*
1. To propel a boat or raft with a pole.

2. To use ski poles to maintain or gain speed.

[Middle English, from Old English *pāl*, from Latin *pālus*, stake; see **pag-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Pole 🗣️ (pōl)

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n.

1. A native or inhabitant of Poland.
2. A person of Polish ancestry.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

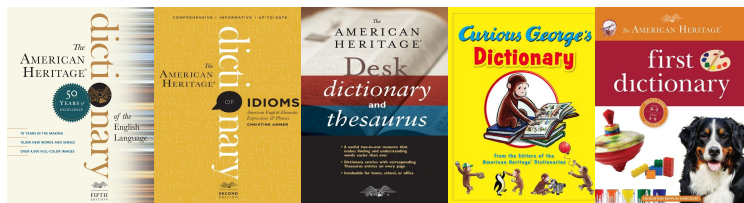
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[Semitic Roots](#)

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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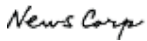
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