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paste¹  (pāst)

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n.

1. A soft, smooth, thick mixture or material, as:

a. A smooth viscous mixture, as of flour and water or of starch and water, that is used as an adhesive for joining light materials, such as paper and cloth.

b. The moist clay or clay mixture used in making porcelain or pottery. Also called *pâte*.

c. A smooth dough of water, flour, and butter or other shortening, used in making pastry.

d. A food that has been pounded until it is reduced to a smooth creamy mass: *anchovy paste*.

e. A sweet doughy candy or confection: *rolled apricot paste*.

2.

a. A hard, brilliant, lead-containing glass used in making artificial gems.

b. A gem made of this glass. Also called *strass*.

v. **past·ed, past·ing, pastes**

v.tr.

1. To cause to adhere by applying paste.

2. To cover with something by using paste: *He pasted the wall with burlap*.

3. *Computers* To insert (text, graphics, or other data) into a document or file.

v.intr.

Computers To insert text, graphics, or other data into a document or file.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Late Latin *pasta*, from Greek, barley-porridge, from neuter pl. of *pastos*, sprinkled, salted, from *passein*, to sprinkle; see **kwēt-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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paste²  (pāst) *Slang*

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tr.v. **past·ed, past·ing, pastes**

1. To strike forcefully.

2. To defeat soundly.

n.

A hard blow.

[Probably alteration of [BASTE](#)³.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

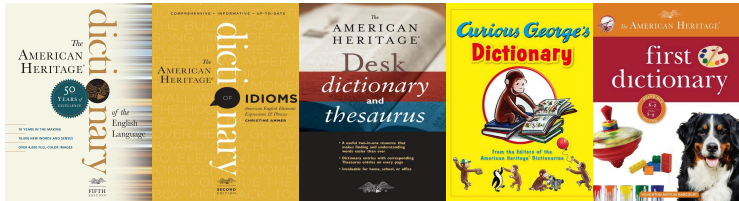
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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