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tro·car  (trō kär')

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n.

A sharp-pointed surgical instrument, used with a cannula to puncture a body cavity for fluid aspiration.

[French *trocart* : *trois*, three (from Old French, from Latin *trēs*; see **trei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *carre*, side of an instrument (from Old French, from *carrer*, to square, from Latin *quadrāre*, from *quadrum*, square; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

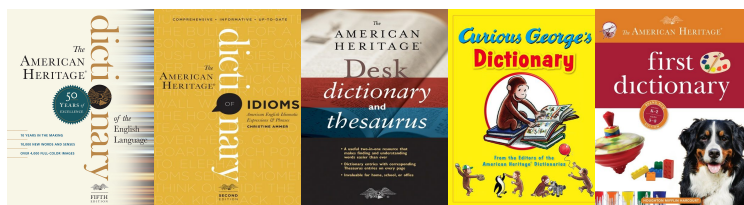
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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