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dictionary

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Language



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tra·pe·zi·um  (trə-pe ze-əm)

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n.pl. **tra·pe·zi·ums** or **tra·pe·zi·a** (-ze-ə)

1. *Mathematics*

a. A quadrilateral having no parallel sides.

b. *Chiefly British* A trapezoid.

2. *Anatomy* A bone in the wrist at the base of the thumb.

[Originally, a quadrilateral with two parallel sides (later confused with **TRAPEZOID**, originally, a quadrilateral having no parallel sides), from Modern Latin *trapezium*, a quadrilateral with two parallel sides, from Late Greek *trapezion*, from Greek, diminutive of *trapeza*, table : *tra-*, four; see **k^wetwer-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *peza*, foot; see **ped-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



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trapezium

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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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