
8
Grammarsaurus



reindeer

"type of antlered animal"

Have you ever wondered where the word **reindeer** comes from or what it means?

The word came into English from the Old Norse word **hreindýri**, which was made from two parts: **hreinn**, meaning "**reindeer**", and **dýr**. The Old English **dýr** looks like our English word deer, but actually, long ago, you could use the word **deer** to refer to any "**wild animal**"!

So the word **reindeer** literally means... "**reindeer wild animal**"!

Grammarsaurus



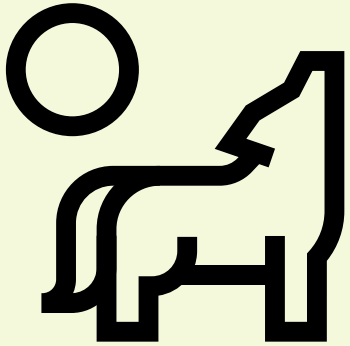
reindeer

"type of antlered animal"

So, they could have said something like:

"A fierce **deer** has been spotted in the forest!"

But they were talking about a **wolf**!





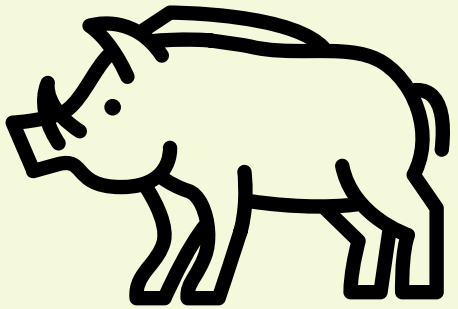
reindeer

"type of antlered animal"

Or, they could have said something like:

"The hunter followed the tracks of a **deer**."

They might have been tracking a **wild boar**.





reindeer

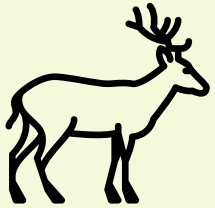
"type of antlered animal"

rein + **deer**

"reindeer" "wild animal"

Sometimes, when words travel between languages, people don't realise that part of a name already tells us what something is!

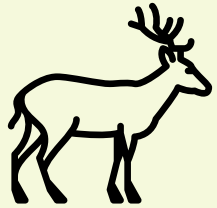
That's why we have names like **sika deer**, which comes from words meaning "**deer deer**".



sika

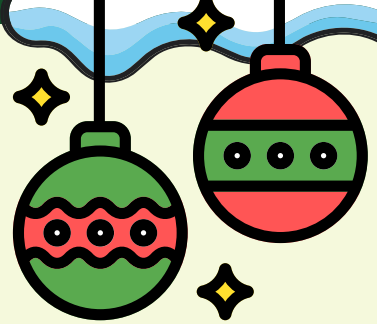
"deer"

from Japanese



deer

Grammarsaurus







reindeer

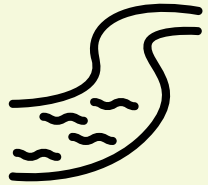
"type of antlered animal"

rein + **deer**

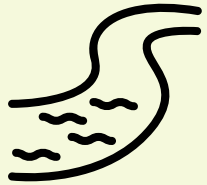
"reindeer" "wild animal"

Sometimes, when words travel between languages, people don't realise that part of a name already tells us what something is!

That's why we have names such as the **River Avon**, which comes from words meaning "**river river**".



River



Avon

"river"
from Celtic



Grammarsaurus



reindeer

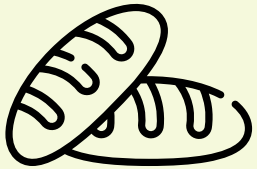
"type of antlered animal"

rein + **deer**

"reindeer" "wild animal"

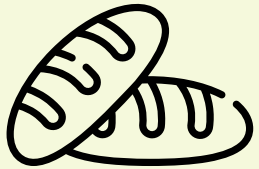
Sometimes, when words travel between languages, people don't realise that part of a name already tells us what something is!

That's why we have names such as **naan bread**, which comes from words meaning "**bread bread**".



naan

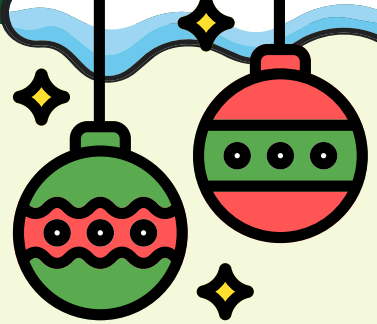
"bread"
from languages including Persian and Urdu



bread



Grammarsaurus







reindeer

"type of antlered animal"

rein (+) **deer**

"reindeer" "wild animal"

Sometimes, when words travel between languages, people don't realise that part of a name already tells us what something is!

That's why we have names such as **chai tea**, which comes from words meaning "**tea tea**".



chai

"tea"
from many languages including Persian, Urdu, Hindi and Turkish



tea



Grammarsaurus