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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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or·di·nal  (ôr dn-əl)

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adj.

1. Being of a specified position in a numbered series: *an ordinal rank of seventh.*
2. Of or relating to a taxonomic order.

n.

1. An ordinal number.
2. *Ecclesiastical*
 - a. A book of instructions for daily services.
 - b. A book of forms for ordination.

[Middle English *ordinel*, orderly, regular, from Late Latin *ordinālis*, ordinal, from Latin *ōrdō*, *ordin-*, order; see [ar-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#). N., sense 2, from Middle English, from Medieval Latin *ordināle*, from Late Latin, neuter sing. of *ordinālis*, ordinal.]

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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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