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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**per·en·ni·al**  (pə-rĕn ē-əl)

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*adj.*

1.

a. Lasting an indefinitely long time; enduring: *an author's perennial popularity among children.*

b. Appearing again and again or year after year; recurrent: *a perennial contender for the championship.* See Synonyms at [continual](#).

2. *Botany* Living three or more years.

3. Lasting or active throughout the year: *a perennial stream.*

*n.*

1. *Botany* A perennial plant.

2. Something that recurs or seems to recur on a yearly or continual basis: "*that hardy perennial, the budget deficit*" ([David S. Broder](#)).

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[Latin *perennis* (*per-*, throughout; see [PER-](#) + *annus*, year; see [at-in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) + *-AL*<sup>1</sup>.]

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**per·en ni·al·ly** *adv.*

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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:

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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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