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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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at·ra·bil·ious  (ă'trə-bīl yəs) also **at·ra·bil·i·ar** (-bīl ē-ər)

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adj.

1. Inclined to melancholy.
2. Having a peevish disposition; surly.

[From Latin *ātra bīlis*, black bile (translation of Greek *melankhōliā*) : *ātra*, black; see **āter-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *bīlis*, bile.]

at·ra·bil ious·ness *n.*

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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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