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aes·thet·ic or **es·thet·ic**  (ěs-thět ĭk)

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adj.

1. Relating to the philosophy or theories of aesthetics.

2.

a. Of or concerning the appreciation of beauty or good taste: *aesthetic judgment; the aesthetic appeal of the exhibit.*

b. Attractive or appealing: *the more aesthetic features of the building.*

3. Characterized by a heightened sensitivity to beauty: *the poet and his aesthetic friends.*

4. Being or relating to a work of art; artistic: *The play was an aesthetic success.*

5. *Informal* Conforming to accepted notions of good taste.

6. often **Aesthetic** Of or characteristic of aestheticism in the arts.

n.

1. A guiding principle in matters of artistic beauty and taste; artistic sensibility: *"a generous Age of Aquarius aesthetic that said that everything was art" (William Wilson).*

2. An underlying principle, a set of principles, or a view often manifested by outward appearances or style of behavior: *"What troubled him was the squalor of [the colonel's] aesthetic" (Lewis H. Lapham).*

[German *ästhetisch*, from New Latin *aesthēticus*, from Greek *aisthētikos*, of sense perception, from *aisthēta*, perceptible things, from *aisthanesthai*, to perceive; see **au-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

aes·thet i·cal·ly *adv.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

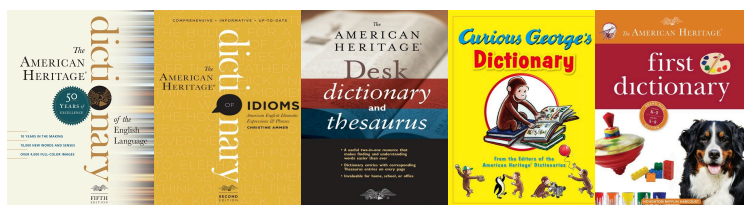
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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