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an·es·the·sia also **an·aes·the·sia**  (ăn'īs-thē zhə)

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n.

1. Total or partial loss of sensation, especially tactile sensibility, induced by disease, injury, acupuncture, or an anesthetic, such as chloroform or nitrous oxide.
2. Local or general insensibility to pain with or without the loss of consciousness, induced by an anesthetic.
3. Medication that induces partial or total loss of sensation and may be topical, local, regional, or general, depending on the method of administration and area of the body affected.

[New Latin *anaesthesia*, from Greek *anaisthēsiā*, insensibility : *an-*, without; see [A](#)¹ + *aisthēsis*, feeling (from *aisthanesthai*, *aisthē-*, to feel; see **au-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots).]

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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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