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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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co·ry·ne·bac·te·ri·um  (kôr'ə-nē-băk-tîr ē-əm, kə-rĭn'ə-)

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n. pl. co·ry·ne·bac·te·ri·a (-tîr ē-ə)

Any of various gram-positive, rod-shaped bacteria of the genus *Corynebacterium*, which includes many animal and plant pathogens, such as the causative agent of diphtheria.

[New Latin *Corynebacterium*, genus name : Greek *korunē*, club; see [ker-¹](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + [BACTERIUM](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

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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