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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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fair·y  (fâr ē)

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n. pl. fair-ies

1. An imaginary being in human form, depicted as clever, mischievous, and possessing magical powers.
2. *Offensive Slang* Used as a disparaging term for a gay man.

[Middle English *fairie*, fairyland, enchanted being, from Old French *faerie*, from *fae*, fairy, from Vulgar Latin **Fāta*, goddess of fate, from Latin *fāta*, the Fates, pl. of *fātum*, fate; see [FATE](#).]

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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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