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AMERICAN
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dictionary

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English
Language



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pho·net·ic  (fə-nět ĭk)

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- adj.*
1. Of or relating to phonetics.
 2. Representing the sounds of speech with a set of distinct symbols, each designating a single sound: *phonetic spelling*.
 3. Of, relating to, or being features of pronunciation that are not phonemically distinctive in a language, as aspiration of consonants or vowel length in English.

[New Latin *phōnēticus*, representing speech sounds, from Greek *phōnētikos*, vocal, from *phōnētos*, to be spoken, from *phōnein*, to produce a sound, from *phōnē*, sound, voice; see *bhā*-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

pho·net i·cal *adj.*

pho·net i·cal·ly *adv.*

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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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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