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dictionary

of the
English
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diff·fi·dent  (dĭf ˈī-dənt, -dənt')

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adj.

Lacking or marked by a lack of self-confidence; shy and timid: *He was too diffident to express his opinion.*

[Middle English, from Latin *diffidēns*, *diffident-*, present participle of *diffidere*, to mistrust : *dis-*, *dis-* + *fidere*, to trust; see **bheidh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

diff fi·dent·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:

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[Semitic Roots](#)

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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