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ne·o·phyte  (nē ə-fīt')

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n.

1. A recent convert to a belief; a proselyte.
2. A beginner or novice: *a neophyte at politics*.
3.
 - a. *Roman Catholic Church* A newly ordained priest.
 - b. A novice of a religious order or congregation.

[Middle English, from Late Latin *neophytus*, from Greek *neophutos*, newly planted, a recent convert : *neo-*, neo- + -*phutos*, planted (from *phuein*, to bring forth, make grow; see **bheua-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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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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