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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language

  


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**fra·ter·nal**  (frə-tûr nəl)

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*adj.*

1.

a. Of or relating to brothers: *a close fraternal tie.*

b. Showing comradeship; brotherly.

2.

a. Of or constituting a fraternity: *a fraternal association.*

b. *Roman Catholic Church* Of or constituting a mendicant order such as the Dominicans or Franciscans.

3. *Biology* Of, relating to, or being a twin developed from two separately fertilized ova; dizygotic.

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[Middle English, from Old French *fraternel*, from Medieval Latin *frāternālis*, from Latin *frāternus*, from *frāter*, brother; see **bhrāter-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**fra·ter nal·ism** *n.*

**fra·ter nal·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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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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