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demon.

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de·mon  (dē mən)

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- n.*
1. An evil supernatural being; a devil.
 2. A persistently tormenting person, force, or passion: *the demon of drug addiction.*
 3. One who is extremely zealous, skillful, or diligent: *worked away like a demon; a real demon at math.*
 4. Variant of [daimon](#).

[Middle English, from Late Latin *daemōn*, from Latin, spirit, from Greek *daimōn*, divine power; see **dā-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

de·mon **ic** (-mŏn īk) *adj.*
de·mon **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:

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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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