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be·nev·o·lent  (bə-něv ə-lənt)

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adj.

1.

a. Characterized by or given to doing good: "*a benevolent philanthropist who donated the funds to found the town library*" ([Willie Morris](#)).

b. Suggestive of doing good; agreeable: *a benevolent smile*.

2. Relating to a charitable organization that operates without making a profit.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *benevolēns*, *benevolent-* : *bene*, well; see **deu-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *volēns*, present participle of *velle*, to wish; see **wel-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

be·nev o·lent·ly *adv.*

Synonyms: benevolent, charitable, eleemosynary, philanthropic

These adjectives mean of, concerned with, providing, or provided by charity: *a benevolent fund; a charitable foundation; eleemosynary relief; philanthropic contributions*. See Also Synonyms at **kind**¹.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

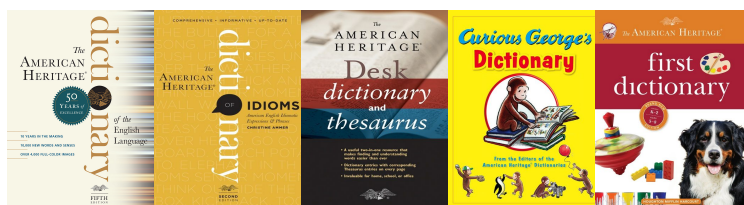
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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