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dictionary

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English
Language



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syn·the·sis  (sĭn thĭ-sĭs)

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n. pl. **syn·the·ses** (-sēz')

1.

a. The combining of separate elements or substances to form a coherent whole.

b. The complex whole so formed.

2. *Chemistry* Formation of a compound from simpler compounds or elements.

3. *Philosophy*

a. Reasoning from the general to the particular; logical deduction.

b. The combination of thesis and antithesis in the Hegelian dialectical process whereby a new and higher level of truth is produced.

[Latin, collection, from Greek *sunthesis*, from *suntithenai*, to put together : *sun-*, *syn-* + *tithenai*, to put; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

syn the·sist *n.*

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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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