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fem·i·nine  (fēm ə-nīn)

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adj.

1. Of or relating to women or girls.
2. Characterized by or possessing qualities traditionally attributed to women, such as demureness.
3. Effeminate; womanish.
4. *Grammar* Relating or belonging to the gender of words or forms that refer chiefly to females or to things grammatically classified as female.

n.

Grammar

1. The feminine gender.
2. A word or form belonging to the feminine gender.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *fēminīnus*, from *fēmina*, woman; see **dhē(i)-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

fem i·nine·ly *adv.*

fem i·nine·ness, **fem'i·nin i·ty** (-nīn ȳ-tē) *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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