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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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homo- or **hom-**

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pref.

Same; like: *homophone*.

[Greek, from *homos*, same; see **sem-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Ho·mo  (hō mō)

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n.

1. A genus of primates that includes modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) and several extinct species.

2. Used in combination with mock Latin adjectives to indicate a type of person or to characterize humans generally, often for humorous effect: *Homo apatheticus*.

[Latin *homō*, man; see **dhghem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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ho·mo  (hō mō)

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n. pl. ho·mos

Offensive Slang

Used as a disparaging term for a gay man or lesbian.

[Short for [HOMOSEXUAL](#).]

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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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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