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dictionary

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ho·mun·cu·lus  (hō-mŭng kyə-ləs, hə-)

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n. pl. **ho·mun·cu·li** (-lī')

1. A diminutive human.
2. A miniature, fully formed individual believed by adherents of the early biological theory of preformation to be present in the sperm cell.

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

ho·mun cu·lar *adj.*

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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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