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hu·man  (hy mān)

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n.

1. A member of the primate genus *Homo*, especially a member of the species *Homo sapiens*, distinguished from other apes by a large brain and the capacity for speech.

2. A person: *the extraordinary humans who explored Antarctica.*

adj.

1. Of, relating to, or characteristic of humans: *the course of human events; the human race.*

2. Having or showing those positive aspects of nature and character regarded as distinguishing humans from other animals: *an act of human kindness.*

3. Subject to or indicative of the weaknesses, imperfections, and fragility associated with humans: *a mistake that shows he's only human; human frailty.*

4. Having the form of a human.

5. Made up of humans: *formed a human bridge across the ice.*

[Middle English *humain*, from Old French, from Latin *hūmānus*; see **dhghem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

hu man·hood' *n.*

hu man·ness *n.*

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