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bi·na·ry  (bī nă-rē)

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adj.

1. Characterized by or consisting of two parts or components; twofold.

2.

a. Of or relating to a system of numeration having 2 as its base.

b. Of or relating to a system of encoding data using only 0's and 1's.

3. *Chemistry* Consisting of or containing only two kinds of atoms.

4. Of or employing two comparatively nontoxic chemicals that combine to produce a deadly poison: *binary weapons*; *a binary nerve agent*.

5. *Music* Having two sections or subjects.

n. pl. bi·na·ries

1. A number system having 2 as its base.

2. A file that contains the executable version of a computer program.

3. A binary star.

[Middle English *binarie*, from Late Latin *bīnārius*, from Latin *bīnī*, two by two; see **dwo-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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