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dictionary

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Language



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er·rant  (ĕr ˈænt)

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adj.

1. Roving, especially in search of adventure: *knights errant*.
2. Failing to adhere to guidelines or moral standards: *errant youngsters*.
3.
 - a. Moving from the proper course or established limits: *errant lambs*.
 - b. Aimless or irregular in motion: *an errant afternoon breeze*.
 - c. Missing an intended target or recipient: *an errant shot*.

[Middle English *erraunt*, from Anglo-Norman, partly from Old French *errer*, to travel about (from Vulgar Latin **iterāre*, from Latin *iter*, journey; see **ei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) and partly from Old French *errer*, to err; see [ERR](#).]

er rant *n.*

er rant·ly *adv.*

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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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