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in·trin·sic  (in-trĭn zĭk, -sĭk)

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adj.

1. Of or relating to the essential nature of a thing; inherent.
2. *Anatomy* Situated within or belonging solely to the organ or body part on which it acts. Used of certain nerves and muscles.

[Middle English *intrinsique*, inner, from Old French *intrinseque*, from Late Latin *intrīnsecus*, inward, from Latin, inwardly; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·trin si·cal·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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