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dictionary

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Language



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in·ter·nal  (ĭn-tûr nəl)

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- adj.*
1. Of, relating to, or located within the limits or surface; inner.
 2. Residing in or dependent on essential nature; intrinsic: *the internal contradictions of the theory.*
 3. Located, acting, or effective within the body.
 4. Of or relating to mental or spiritual nature: "*An internal sense of righteousness dwindles into an external concern for reputation*" (A.R. Gurney, Jr.)
 5. Of or relating to the domestic affairs of a nation, group, or business.

[Middle English *internall*, from Old French *internel*, from Medieval Latin *internālis*, from Latin *internus*, from *inter*, within; see **en** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·ter·nal i·ty (-nāl ĭ-tē) *n.*
in·ter nal·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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