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dictionary

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Language



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er·rat·ic  (ĭ-răt ĭk)

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adj.

1. Having no fixed or regular course; wandering: *the erratic flight of a moth.*
2. Lacking consistency, regularity, or uniformity: *an erratic heartbeat.*
3. Deviating from the customary course in conduct or opinion; eccentric: *erratic behavior.*

n.

Geology

A rock fragment that has been transported by ice to a location other than its place of origin and that may range in size from a pebble to a large boulder.

[Middle English *erratik*, from Old French *erratique*, from Latin *errāticus*, from *errāre*, to wander; see **ers-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

er·rat i·cal·ly *adv.*

er·rat i·cism (ĭ-sĭz'əm) *n.*

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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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