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dictionary

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English
Language



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onto- or **ont-**

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pref.

1. Existence; being: *ontology*.
2. Organism: *ontogeny*.

[Late Greek, from Greek *ōn*, *ont-*, present participle of *einai*, to be; see **es-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

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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