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va·cant  (vā kənt)

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adj.

1.

- a. Containing nothing; empty: *vacant space*.
- b. Not occupied or put to use: *a vacant row of seats*.
- c. Without an incumbent or occupant; unfilled: *a vacant position*.
- d. Not filled with any activity: *vacant hours*. See Synonyms at [empty](#).

2. *Law* Lacking an identified heir: *a vacant estate*.

3.

- a. Lacking intelligence or knowledge: *a vacant mind*.
- b. Lacking expression; blank: *a vacant stare*.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *vacāns*, *vacant-*, present participle of *vacāre*, to be empty; see [eua-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

va cant·ly *adv.*

va cant·ness *n.*

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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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