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gen·ial¹  (jēn yəl)

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adj.

1. Having a pleasant or friendly disposition or manner: *a genial guest.*
2. Conducive to life, growth, or comfort; mild: "*the genial sunshine ... saturating his miserable body with its warmth*" (*Jack London*).
3. *Archaic* Relating to or marked by genius.
4. *Archaic* Of or relating to marriage; nuptial.

[Latin *geniālis*, festive, from *genius*, spirit of festivity; see **genə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ge·ni·al i·ty (jē'nē-ăl ĭ-tē), **gen ial·ness** *n.*
gen ial·ly *adv.*

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ge·ni·al²  (jĭ-nī əl)

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adj.

Of or relating to the chin.

[From Greek *geneion*, chin, from *genus*, jaw; see **genu-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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