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in·gen·u·ous  (ĭn-jĕn y -əs)

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- adj.*
1. Lacking in cunning, guile, or worldliness; innocent or naive: *I'm not so ingenuous as to believe everything he says.* See Synonyms at [naive](#).
 2. Straightforward or frank; candid: *"I must be so ingenuous as to own that the accounts are not so certain as to the exact time and place of his birth" (Memoir of Martinus Scriblerus).*

[Latin *ingenuus*, honest, freeborn; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·gen u·ous·ly *adv.*

in·gen u·ous·ness *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

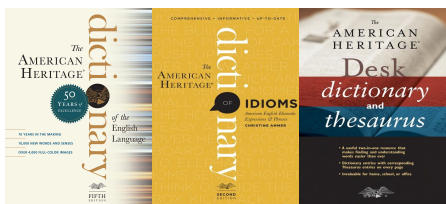
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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