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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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ger·mi·nate  (jûr mə-nāt')

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v. **ger·mi·nat·ed**, **ger·mi·nat·ing**, **ger·mi·nates**

v.*tr.*

To cause to sprout or grow.

v.*intr.*

1. To begin to sprout or grow.

2. To come into existence: *An idea germinated in his mind.*

[Latin *germināre*, *germināt-*, to sprout, from *germen*, *germin-*, sprout, bud; see **gena-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ger'mi·na tion *n.*

ger mi·na'tive *adj.*

ger mi·na'tor *n.*



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germinate

germination of a bean seed

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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:

[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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