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gen·teel  (jěn-tēl)

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adj.

1. Refined or polite, often in an affected way: *"Who better to domesticate him than the most genteel woman in the world? What better to housebreak him than ... a delicate actress with beautiful diction for his wife?"* ([Philip Roth](#)).

See Synonyms at [polite](#).

2. Typical or characteristic of the upper class: *"His family background was somewhat less genteel than his Brahmin name and Harvard pedigree might suggest"* (Scot French).

3. Elegantly stylish or fashionable: *genteel manners and appearance*.

[French *gentil*, from Old French; see [GENTLE](#).]

gen·teel ly *adv.*

gen·teel ness *n.*

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