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English
Language



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in·nate  (ĩ-nāt , ĩn āt')

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adj.

1.

a. Existing naturally or by heredity rather than being learned through experience: "*Chimpanzees show an innate distrust of contact with strangers*" ([Cindy Engel](#)).

b. Of or produced by the mind rather than learned through experience: *an innate knowledge of right and wrong*.

2. Possessed as an essential characteristic; inherent: "*As the Army and farmers built more and more levees, the Missouri lost an innate capacity to absorb its frequent excesses*" ([William Least Heat-Moon](#)).

[Middle English *innat*, from Latin *innātus*, past participle of *innāscī*, to be born in : *in-*, *in*; see [IN](#)² + *nāscī*, to be born; see [genə-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·nate *ly adv.*

in·nate *ness n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

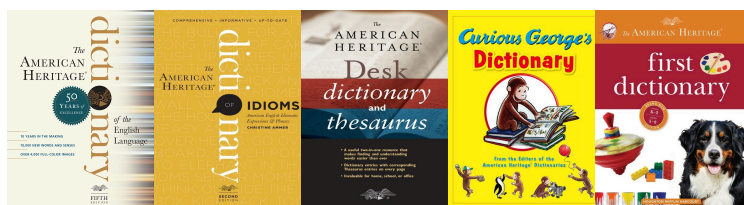
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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