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dictionary

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Language



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ep-i-gram  (ěp ĭ-grām')

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n.

1. A short, witty poem expressing a single thought or observation.
2. A concise, clever, often paradoxical statement.
3. Epigrammatic discourse or expression.

[Middle English, from Old French *epigramme*, from Latin *epigramma*, from Greek, from *epigraphein*, to mark the surface, inscribe : *epi-*, *epi-* + *graphein*, to write; see **gerbh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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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:

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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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