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au·to·ceph·a·lous  (ô'tə-sěf ə-ləs)

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adj.

Christianity

Having a head bishop who is not responsible to any higher-ranking ecclesiastical authority. Used of churches in the Eastern Orthodox communion.

[From Byzantine Greek *autokephalos* : *auto-*, *auto-* + *kephalos*, head; see **ghebh-el-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

au to·ceph'a·ly (-lē) *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](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

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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