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dictionary

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mi·to·chon·dri·on  (mī'tə-kŏn drē-ən)

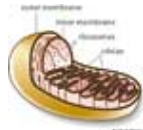
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n.pl. **mi·to·chon·dri·a** (-drē-ə)

A spherical or elongated organelle in the cytoplasm of nearly all eukaryotic cells, containing genetic material and many enzymes important for cell metabolism, including those responsible for the conversion of food to usable energy.

[New Latin : Greek *mitos*, warp thread + Greek *khondrion*, diminutive of *khondros*, gn, granule; see **ghrendh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

mi'to·chon dri·al (-drē-əl) *adj.*



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mitochondrion

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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:

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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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