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Nor·mal  (nôr məl)

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A town of central Illinois near Bloomington. It is the seat of Illinois State University, founded as a normal school in 1857.

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nor·mal  (nôr məl)

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adj.

1. Conforming with, adhering to, or constituting a norm, standard, pattern, level, or type; typical: *normal room temperature; one's normal weight; normal diplomatic relations.*

2. *Biology* Functioning or occurring in a natural way; lacking observable abnormalities or deficiencies.

3. *Chemistry*

a. Relating to or designating the normality of a solution.

b. *Abbr. n* Designating an aliphatic hydrocarbon having an acyclic unbranched chain of carbon atoms.

4. *Mathematics*

a. Being at right angles; perpendicular.

b. Perpendicular to the direction of a tangent line to a curve or a tangent plane to a surface.

5.

a. Relating to or characterized by average intelligence or development.

b. Free from mental illness; sane.

n.

1. The usual, expected, or standard state, form, amount, or degree: *Temperatures have been above normal for this time of year.*

2. *Mathematics* A perpendicular, especially a perpendicular to a line tangent to a plane curve or to a plane tangent to a space curve.

[Middle English, from Late Latin *normālis*, from Latin, made according to the square, from *norma*, carpenter's square; see **gnō-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

nor mal·ly *adv.*

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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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