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gra·tu·i·tous  (grə-t ĭ-təs, -ty -)

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adj.

1. Given or granted without return or recompense; unearned.
2. Given or received without cost or obligation; free.
3. Unnecessary or unwarranted; unjustified: *gratuitous criticism*.

[From Latin *grātuitus*; see **g^wera-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

gra·tu i·tous·ly *adv.*

gra·tu i·tous·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](#)

[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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