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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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cir·cum·cise  (sûr kəm-sîz')

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tr.v. **cir·cum·cised, cir·cum·cis·ing, cir·cum·cis·es**

1. To remove the prepuce of (a male).
2. To remove all or part of the clitoris, prepuce, or labia of (a female).

[Middle English *circumcisen*, from Latin *circumcīdere*, *circumcīs-*, to cut around : *circum-*, circum- + *caedere*, to cut; see **kə-*id-*** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cir cum·cis'er 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:

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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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