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Language



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whole·some  (hōl səm)

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adj. **whole·som·er**, **whole·som·est**

1. Conducive to or indicative of good health or well-being; salutary: *simple, wholesome food; a wholesome complexion*. See Synonyms at [healthy](#).

2. Conducive to or promoting social or moral well-being, especially in reflecting conventional moral values: *wholesome entertainment; a politician with a wholesome public image*.

[Middle English *holsom*, from Old English **hālsūm*; see **kailo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

whole **some·ly** *adv.*

whole **some·ness** *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

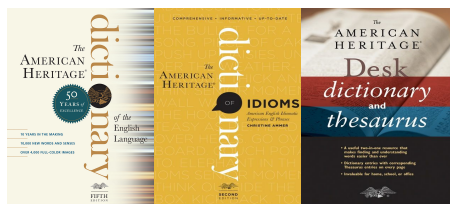
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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