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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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in·cip·i·ent  (in-sĭp ē-ənt)

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adj.

Beginning to exist or appear: *detecting incipient tumors; an incipient personnel problem.*

[Latin *incipiēns*, *incipient-*, present participle of *incipere*, to begin; see [INCEPTION](#).]

in·cip i·en·cy, **in·cip i·ence** *n.*

in·cip i·ent·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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