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AMERICAN
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dictionary

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ca·nes·cent  (kə-nēs ənt)

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adj.

1. *Biology* Covered with short, fine whitish or grayish hairs or down; hoary.
2. Turning white or grayish.

[Latin *cānēscēns*, *cānēscēt-*, present participle of *cānēscere*, inchoative of *cānēre*, to be white, from *cānus*, white; see **kas-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ca·nes cence *n.*

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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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