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dictionary

of the
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os·ci·tan·cy  (ŏs ĭ-tən-sē)

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n. pl. **os·ci·tan·cies**

1. The act of yawning.
2. The state of being drowsy or inattentive; dullness.

[From *oscitant*, yawning, from Latin *ōscitāns*, *ōscitant-*, present participle of *ōscitāre*, to yawn : *ōs*, mouth; see **ōs-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *citāre*, to move; see **keia-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

os ci·tant *adj.*

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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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