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shin·gles  (shĭng gəlz)

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pl.n. (used with a sing. or pl. verb)

An acute viral infection characterized by inflammation of the sensory ganglia of certain spinal or cranial nerves and the eruption of vesicles along the affected nerve path. It usually strikes only one side of the body and is often accompanied by severe neuralgia. Also called *herpes zoster*.

[Middle English, alteration (influenced by Old French *cengles*, pl. of *cengle*, shingles, and by Old French *sengle*, *single*, *chingle*, belt) of Medieval Latin *cingulus* (translation of Greek *zōstēr*, girdle, shingles, from the fact that the inflammation often extends around the middle of the body), variant of Latin *cingulum*, girdle, from *cingere*, to gird; see **kenk-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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