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dictionary

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Language



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ec·cen·tric  (ĭk-sĕn trĭk, ĕk-)

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adj.

1. Departing from a recognized, conventional, or established norm or pattern. See Synonyms at [strange](#).
2. Deviating from a circular form or path, as in an elliptical orbit.

3.

- a. Not having the same center: *eccentric circles*.
- b. Having the axis located elsewhere than at the geometric center.

n.

1. One that deviates markedly from an established norm, especially a person of odd or unconventional behavior.
2. *Physics* A disk or wheel having its axis of revolution displaced from its center so that it is capable of imparting reciprocating motion.

[Middle English *eccentrik*, planetary orbit of which the earth is not at the center, from Medieval Latin *eccentricus*, not having the same center, from Greek *ekkentros* : *ek-*, out of; see [ECTO-](#) + *kentron*, center (from *kentein*, to prick; see [kent-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

ec·cen tri·cal·ly *adv.*



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eccentric

eccentric circles with the center of each circle marked

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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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