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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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cli·ent  (klī ənt)

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n.

1. The party for which professional services are rendered, as by an attorney.
2. A customer or patron: *clients of the hotel*.
3. A person using the services of a social services agency.
4. One that depends on the protection of another.
5. A client state.
6. *Computers* A computer or program that can download files for manipulation, run applications, or request application-based services from a file server.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *cliēns*, *client-*, dependent, follower; see **klei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

cli ent·age (-ən-tīj) *n.*

cli·en tal (klī-ěntəl, klī ən-) *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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