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ep·i·cene  (ěp ĭ-sēn')

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adj.

1. Having male and female characteristics.
2. Having characteristics traditionally ascribed to another sex, especially as a male who is considered to be effeminate.
3. Having no male or female characteristics.
4. *Linguistics* Having only one form for both the male and the female: *an epicene pronoun*.

n.

1. One that is epicene.
2. *Linguistics* An epicene word.

[Middle English, having only one form of the noun for either gender, from Latin *epicoenus*, from Greek *epikoinos*, in common : *epi-*, *epi-* + *koinos*, common; see **kom** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

ep i·cen'ism *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

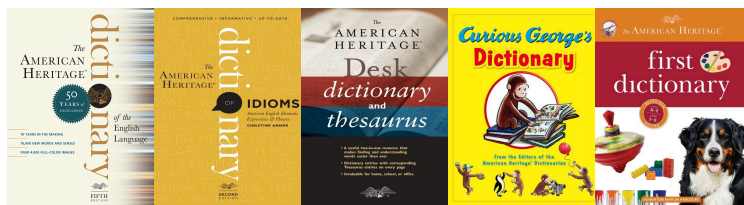
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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