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hy·poc·ri·sy  (hĭ-pŏk rĭ-sē)

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n. pl. **hy·poc·ri·sies**

1. The practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not hold or possess; falseness.
2. An act or instance of such falseness.

[Middle English *ipocrisie*, from Old French, from Late Latin *hypocrisis*, play-acting, pretense, from Greek *hupokrisis*, from *hupokrīnesthai*, to play a part, pretend : *hupo-*, hypo- + *krīnesthai*, to explain, middle voice of *krīnein*, to decide, judge; see **krei-** [in the Appendix of 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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