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AMERICAN  
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the  
English  
Language


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**neu·ter**  (n    tər, ny    -)

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*adj.*

**1. Grammar**

- a. Neither masculine nor feminine in gender.
- b. Neither active nor passive; intransitive. Used of verbs.

**2. Biology**

- a. Having undeveloped or nonfunctional sexual organs: *the neuter caste in social insects*.
- b. Having pistils and stamens that are nonfunctional or absent.
- 3. Castrated or spayed. Used of animals.
- 4. Androgynous or asexual.
- 5. *Archaic* Taking no side in a dispute; neutral.

*n.*

**1. Grammar**

- a. The neuter gender.
- b. A neuter word.
- c. A neuter noun.
- 2. An androgynous or asexual person.
- 3. A castrated animal.
- 4. An insect that has undeveloped or nonfunctional sexual organs, such as a worker bee.
- 5. *Archaic* One that is neutral in a dispute.

*tr.v.* **neu·tered, neu·ter·ing, neu·ters**

- 1. To castrate or spay.
- 2. To render ineffective or powerless: *a scandal that neutered the politician*.

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[Middle English *neutre*, from Old French, from Latin *neuter*, neither, neuter : *ne-*, not; see **ne** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *uter*, either; see **k<sup>w</sup>o-** [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:

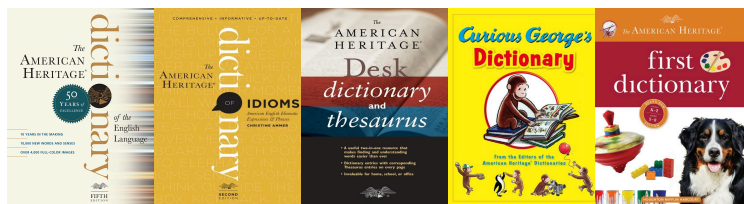
[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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

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