



SINCE 1828

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Dictionary



antigen



Date visited:

October 13, 2016

antigen

noun | an-ti-gen | \ˈan-ti-jən, -jən\

Simple Definition of ANTIGEN

Popularity: Top 40% of words

medical : a harmful substance that causes the body to produce antibodies

Source: Merriam-Webster's Learner's Dictionary

Editor's note: Did You Know? 



Full Definition of ANTIGEN

: any substance (as an immunogen or a haptén) foreign to the body that evokes an immune response either alone or after forming a complex with a larger molecule (as a protein) and that is capable of binding with a product (as an **antibody** or T cell) of the immune response

–**antigenic**  \,an-ti-'je-nik\ *adjective*

–**antigenically**  \-ni-k(ə-)lĕ\ *adverb*

–**antigenicity**  \-jə-'ni-sə-tē\ *noun*

See *antigen* defined for English-language learners

See *antigen* defined for kids