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Idiopathic

adjective | id·i·o·path·ic | \,i-dē-ə-'pa-thik\

Popularity: Top 30% of words | Updated on: 27 Feb 2018

Editor's Note: Did You Know? ▼



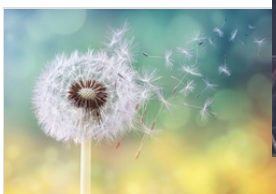
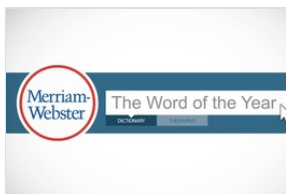
Definition of IDIOPATHIC

- 1 : arising spontaneously or from an obscure or unknown cause : **PRIMARY**
 - *idiopathic* epilepsy
- 2 : peculiar to the individual

—*idiopathically* \,i-dē-ə-'pa-thi-k(ə-)lē\ *adverb*

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Indictments

Look, This Is a List
of **Fart** Words.





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IDIOPATHIC was our Word of the Day on 02/25/2013. Hear the podcast!

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Recent Examples of IDIOPATHIC from the Web

Having a clotting disorder Some bleeding disorders are *idiopathic* thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), common enough.



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— Korin Miller, *SELF*, "11 Things That Can Raise Your Risk of Blood Clots," 27 Jan. 2018



iah, 12, has systemic juvenile *idiopathic* arthritis (SJIA), an autoimmune disease that attacks her liver and her joints.

— Kalyn Kahler, *SI.com*, "Bills Fans' Generosity: Meet the Families Being Helped by Donations to Andy Dalton's Foundation," 11 Jan. 2018

In some cases, bruising easily can also be a sign of an underlying health condition like anemia or *idiopathic* thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), a disorder that can cause people to easily or excessively bruise or bleed.

— Korin Miller, *SELF*, "Here Are the Only Ways to Actually Get Rid of a Bruise Faster," 16 Dec. 2017

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'idiopathic.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

Did You Know?

Idiopathic joins the combining form "idio-" (from Greek *idios*, meaning "one's own" or "private") with "-pathic," a form that suggests the effects of disease. The combining form "idio-" is typically found in technical terms. Examples include *idiographic*, meaning "relating to or dealing with something concrete, individual, or unique;" *idiolect*, meaning "the language or speech pattern of one individual at a particular period of life;" and *idiotype*, meaning "the molecular structure and conformation of an antibody that confers its antigenic specificity." A more common "idio-" word is "idiosyncrasy," which most commonly refers to an unusual way in which a person behaves or thinks, or to an unusual part or feature of something.



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First Known Use of IDIOPATHIC

1669



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Medical Dictionary

idiopathic

adjective | id·io·path·ic | \,id-ē-ə-'path-ik\

Medical Definition of IDIOPATHIC

: arising spontaneously or from an obscure or unknown cause : **PRIMARY**

- *idiopathic* epilepsy
- *idiopathic* thrombocytopenic purpura

—*idiopathically* \-'path-i-k(ə-)lē\ *adverb*

Learn More about IDIOPATHIC

See [words that rhyme with idiopathic](#)

Britannica English: [Translation of idiopathic for Arabic speakers](#)

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What made you want to look up *idiopathic*? Please tell us where you read or heard it (including the quote, if possible).

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WORD OF THE DAY

tenebrous

dark, murky, or obscure

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TRENDING NOW

1 **hoax, unwitting**

'not knowing' or 'not intended'

2 **Anglo-American**

'reflecting English and American jurisprudence'

3 **sartorial**

'of or relating to clothes'

4 **whipsaw**

'to beset or victimize in two opposite ways at once'

5 **treason**

'the crime of trying to overthrow your country's government'

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Russians'
Indictments**

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idiopathic

idiophanous

idiophane

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February 2018 Words of the Day Quiz

a-dog-in-snow-jumping-to-grab
-a-heart-shaped-balloon-the-
snow-and-heart-balloon-
indicate-that-the-month-beina-

Which is a synonym of **sanguine**?

grateful

optimistic

maudlin

prescient

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Word Winder's CrossWinder

Test Your Knowledge - and learn some interesting things along the way.

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Trending:
'Unwitting' and 'Hoax' Spike After Russians' Indictments



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Words that were written in the cosmos

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How Do You Pronounce 'The'?

How to say English's most common word

alt-5a905007f0257

The Infernal History of 'Turtle'

And you thought they were so cute.

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2017 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes

How we chose 'feminism'

video-title-words-of-the-year-1066

Words of the Year: 1066

Or, Why Pig Meat is Called 'Pork' and Cow Meat is Called 'Beef'

video-irregardless-grammar-peeve-blend-of-the-synonyms-irrespective-and-regardless

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Irregardless

It is in fact a real word (and doesn't mean you should use it).



Trending: 'Unwitting' and 'Hoax' Spike After Russians' Indictments





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WORD GAMES

a-dog-in-snow-jumping-to-grab-a-heart-shaped-balloon-the-snow-and-heart-balloon-indicate-that-the-month-being-represented-is-april-and-the-dog-is-just-kinda-cute

February 2018 Words of the Day Quiz

The shortest month deserves a tough quiz.
TAKE THE QUIZ

a-citrus-fruit-possibly-named-after-a-person

Namesakes Word Quiz

When names become words and then we ask you about them.
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Name That Thing



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