

WORD OF THE WEEK:

LACONIC

la-con-ic (lə-kŏn'ɪk)

PART OF SPEECH/DEFINITION:

ADJ.: 1. Using or marked by the use of few words; terse or concise.

SENTENCE: At first, the family was loud and talkative, but the talk around the table got more and more laconic the more everyone ate.



Word History: The term *laconic* comes from the Greek *Lakōnikos* meaning "a Laconian, a person from Lacedaemon," the name for the region of Greece of which Sparta was the capital. The Spartans, noted for being warlike and disciplined, were also known for the brevity of their speech, and it is this quality that English writers still denote by the use of the adjective *laconic*, which is first found in this sense in 1589.