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zir·con  (zûr kŏn')

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n.

A brown to colorless mineral, ZrSiO_4 , which is heated, cut, and polished to form a brilliant blue-white gem.

[German *Zirkon* (originally in obsolete scientific German *Zirkonerde*, zirconium oxide, coined by German chemist Martin Heinrich Klaproth (1743-1817), who first isolated it from a jacinth), probably partly from Arabic *zarqūn*, minium, bright red (from Persian *zargūn*, gold-colored, from Middle Persian *zargōn*, golden : *zarr*, *zar-*, golden from Old Iranian, **zarna-*; see [ghel-² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *gōn*, color, from Old Iranian **gaona-*; akin to Sanskrit *guṇaḥ*, string, thread, quality), and partly from European terms for "jacinth" such as French *jargon* (from Old French *jargonce*, ultimately from Latin *hyacinthus*; see [HYACINTH](#)).]

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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 in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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