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blue  (bl)

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n.

1. The hue of that portion of the visible spectrum lying between green and indigo, evoked in the human observer by radiant energy with wavelengths of approximately 420 to 490 nanometers; any of a group of colors that may vary in lightness and saturation, whose hue is that of a clear daytime sky; one of the additive or light primaries; one of the psychological primary hues.

2.

a. A pigment or dye imparting this hue.

b. Bluing.

3.

a. An object having this hue.

b. Dress or clothing of this hue: *The ushers wore blue.*

4.

a. A person who wears a blue uniform.

b. **blues** A dress blue uniform, especially that of the US Army.

5. often **Blue**

a. A member of the Union Army in the Civil War.

b. The Union Army.

6. A bluefish.

7. Any of various small blue butterflies of the subfamily Polyommatinae.

8.

a. The sky.

b. The sea.

adj. **blu·er, blu·est**

1. Of the color blue.

2. Bluish or having parts that are blue or bluish, as the blue spruce and the blue whale.

3. Having a gray or purplish color, as from cold or contusion.

4. Wearing blue.

5. Being a trail, as for skiing, marked with a sign having a blue square, indicating an intermediate level of difficulty.

6. Relating to or being a blue state.

7.

a. Gloomy; depressed. See Synonyms at [depressed](#).

b. Dismal; dreary: *a blue day.*

8. Puritanical; strict.

9. Aristocratic; patrician.

10. Indecent; risqué: *a blue joke; a blue movie.*

tr. & intr.v. **blued, blu·ing, blues**

To make or become blue.

Idioms:

blue in the face

At the point of extreme exasperation: *I argued with them until I was blue in the face.*

into the blue

At a far distance; into the unknown: *spontaneously take a trip into the blue.*

out of the blue

1. From an unexpected or unforeseen source: *criticism that came out of the blue.*

2. At a completely unexpected time: *a long-unseen friend who appeared out of the blue.*

[Middle English *blue*, *bleu*, from Old French *bleu*, of Germanic origin; see **bhel**-¹ in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

blue *ly* *adv.*

blue *ness* *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

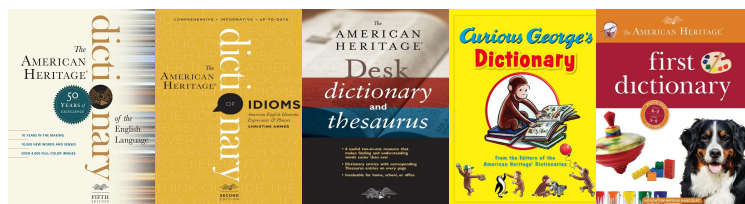
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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