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Language



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bleach  (blēch)

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v. **bleached**, **bleach·ing**, **bleach·es**

v.tr.

1.

a. To remove the color from, as by means of chemical agents or sunlight: *Over time, the exposure to sunlight bleached the rug in front of the window.*

b. To make white or colorless: *Dawn bleached the mountains.*

2. To whiten by causing the death or expulsion of algal symbionts from (coral).

v.intr.

1. To act as or use a bleach.

2. To become white as a result of the loss of algal symbionts, usually following an environmental stress such as increased water temperature. Used of coral.

n.

1. A chemical agent used for bleaching.

2.

a. The act of bleaching.

b. The degree of bleaching obtained.

[Middle English *blechen*, from Old English *blācan*; see **bhel-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

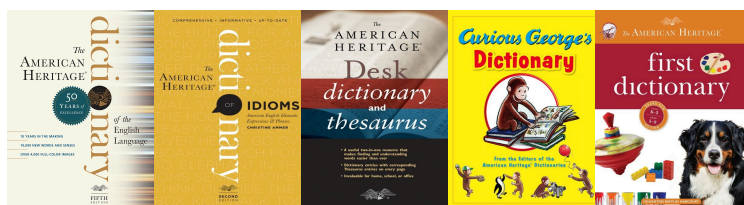
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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