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flame 🔊 (flām)

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n.

1. The zone of burning gases and fine suspended matter associated with rapid combustion; a hot, glowing mass of burning gas or vapor.
2. The condition of active, blazing combustion: *burst into flame*.
3. Something resembling a flame in motion, brilliance, intensity, or shape.
4. A violent or intense passion.
5. *Informal* A person that one has an intense passion for.
6. *Informal* An insulting criticism or remark meant to incite anger, as on a computer network.

v. **flamed**, **flam-ing**, **flames**

v.intr.

1. To burn brightly; blaze.
2. To color or flash suddenly: *cheeks that flamed with embarrassment*.
3. *Informal* To make insulting criticisms or remarks, as on a computer network, to incite anger.

v.tr.

1. To burn, ignite, or scorch (something) with a flame.
2. *Informal* To insult or criticize provokingly, as on a computer network.
3. *Obsolete* To excite; inflame.

Phrasal Verb:

flame out

To fail: "Only a handful of companies have flamed out in the two decades since the birth of the [biotech] industry" (Rhonda L. Rundle).

[Middle English, from Anglo-Norman *flaumbe*, variant of Old French *flambe*, from *flamble*, from Latin *flammula*, diminutive of *flamma*; see **bhel-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

flam er *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

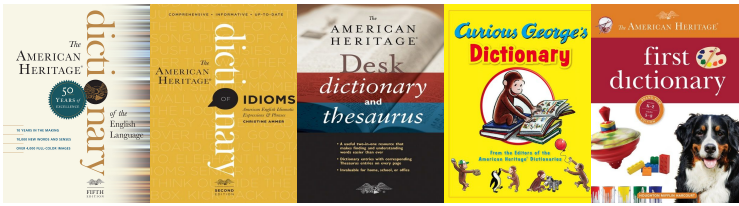
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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