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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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ex·fo·li·ate  (ěks-fō lē-āt')

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v. ex·fo·li·at·ed, ex·fo·li·at·ing, ex·fo·li·ates

v.tr.

1. To remove (a layer of bark or skin, for example) in flakes or scales; peel.

2. To cast off in scales, flakes, or splinters.

v.intr.

To come off or separate into flakes, scales, or layers.

[Latin *exfoliāre*, *exfoliāt-*, to strip of leaves : *ex-*, *ex-* + *folium*, leaf; see **bhel-**³ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ex·fo'li·a tion *n.*

ex·fo li·a'tive *adj.*

ex·fo li·a'tor *n.*

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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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