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bloom¹  (bl m)

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n.

1.

a. The flower of a plant.

b. Something resembling the flower of a plant: *"Her hair was caught all to one side in a great bloom of frizz" (Anne Tyler).*

2.

a. The condition of being in flower: *a rose in full bloom.*

b. A condition or time of vigor and beauty; prime: *"the radiant bloom of Greek genius" (Edith Hamilton).*

3. A fresh, rosy complexion: *"She was short, plump, and fair, with a fine bloom" (Jane Austen).*

4.

a. A waxy or powdery whitish to bluish coating on the surface of certain plant parts, as on cabbage leaves or on a plum or grape.

b. A similar coating, as on newly minted coins.

c. Grayish blotches or streaks on the surface of chocolate produced by the formation of cocoa butter crystals.

d. *Chemistry* See [efflorescence](#).

5. Glare that is caused by a shiny object reflecting too much light into a camera.

6. A colored area on the surface of a body of water caused by large numbers of phytoplankton, especially cyanobacteria.

v. **bloomed, bloom·ing, blooms**

v.intr.

1.

a. To bear a flower or flowers.

b. To support plant life in abundance: *rains that made the yard bloom.*

2. To glow; be radiant: *"Our summer-gray potbellied stove bloomed rosy red during winter" (Maya Angelou).*

3. To mature or flourish with youth and vigor: *genius blooming under a great teacher.*

4. To appear or come into being suddenly: *"Her pale shoulders bloomed from the green flounces" (Erin McGraw).*

v.tr.

1. To cause to flourish.

2. *Obsolete* To cause to flower.

[Middle English *blom*, from Old Norse *blōm*; see **bhel**-³ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

bloom *y adj.*

Synonyms: bloom¹, blossom, efflorescence, florescence, flower, flush¹, prime

These nouns denote a condition or time of greatest vigor and freshness: *beauty in full bloom; the blossom of a great romance; the efflorescence of Russian literature; the florescence of Greek civilization; in the flower of youthful enthusiasm; in the flush of their success; the prime of life.*



(click for a larger image)

bloom¹

yellowish phytoplankton bloom at the Leighton Moss nature reserve near Carnforth,

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bloom ²  (bl m)

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n.

1. A bar of steel prepared for rolling.
2. A mass of wrought iron ready for further working.

[Middle English *blome*, lump of metal, from Old English *blōma*; see **bhel-** ³ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Bloom  (bl m), **Harold** 1930-2019.

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American literary theorist and scholar whose works include *The Anxiety of Influence* (1973).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

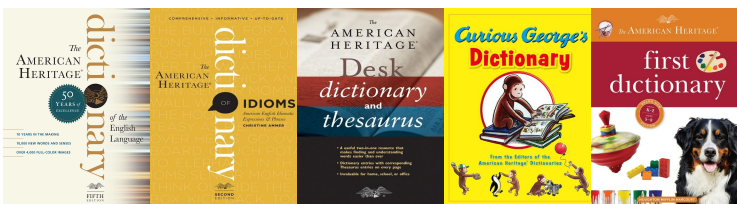
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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