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flour·ish  (flûr ɪsh, flûr -)

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v. **flour·ished**, **flour·ish·ing**, **flour·ish·es**

v.intr.

1. To grow well or luxuriantly; thrive: *The crops flourished in the rich soil.*
2. To do or fare well; prosper: "*No village on the railroad failed to flourish*" ([John Kenneth Galbraith](#)).
3. To be in a period of highest productivity, excellence, or influence: *a poet who flourished in the tenth century.*
4. To make bold, sweeping movements: *The banner flourished in the wind.*

v.tr.

To wield, wave, or exhibit dramatically.

n.

1. A dramatic or stylish movement, as of waving or brandishing: "*A few ... musicians embellish their performance with a flourish of the fingers*" (*Frederick D. Bennett*).
2. An embellishment or ornamentation: *a signature with a distinctive flourish.*
3. An ostentatious act or gesture: *a flourish of generosity.*
4. *Music* A showy or ceremonious passage, such as a fanfare.

[Middle English *florishen*, from Old French *florir*, *floriss-*, from Vulgar Latin **flōrīre*, from Latin *flōrēre*, to bloom, from *flōs*, *flōr-*, flower; see **bhel-**³ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

flour ɪsh·er n.

Synonyms: flourish, brandish, wave

These verbs mean to swing back and forth boldly and dramatically: *flourished the newly signed contract*; *brandish a sword*; *waving a baton*.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

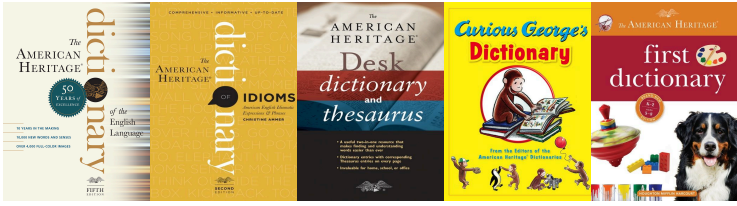
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[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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