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Language



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flow·er  (flou ər)

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n.

1.

a. The reproductive structure of angiosperms, characteristically having either specialized male or female organs or both male and female organs, such as stamens and a pistil, enclosed in an outer envelope of petals and sepals.

b. Such a structure having showy or colorful parts; a blossom.

c. A flower head.

2. A plant that is cultivated or appreciated for its blossoms.

3. The condition or a time of having developed flowers: *The azaleas were in full flower.*

4. The period of highest development or greatest vigor. See Synonyms at [bloom](#)¹.

5. The highest example or best representative: *the flower of our generation.*

6. A natural development or outgrowth: *"His attitude was simply a flower of his general good nature" (Henry James).*

7. flowers *Chemistry* A fine powder produced by condensation or sublimation of a compound.

v. **flow·ered, flow·er·ing, flow·ers**

v.intr.

1. To produce a flower or flowers; blossom.

2. To develop naturally or fully; mature: *His artistic talents flowered early.*

v.tr.

To decorate with flowers or with a floral pattern.

[Middle English *flour*, from Old French *flor*, from Latin *flōs, flōr*–; see [bhel](#)–³ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

flow er·er *n.*

flow er·less *adj.*



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flower

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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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