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bright  (brīt)

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adj. **bright·er, bright·est**

1.
 - a. Emitting or reflecting light readily or in large amounts; shining.
 - b. Comparatively high on the scale of brightness: *bright red*.
 - c. Full of light or illumination: *a bright sunny day; a stage bright with spotlights*.
2. Characterizing a dyestuff that produces a highly saturated color; brilliant.
3. Glorious; splendid: *one of the bright stars of stage and screen; a bright moment in history*.
4. Full of promise and hope; auspicious: *had a bright future in publishing*.
5. Happy; cheerful: *bright faces*.
6. Quick to learn or understand; intelligent.
7. High and clear: *the bright sound of the trumpet section*.

[Middle English, from Old English *beorht*; see **bherag-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

bright, bright *ly adv.*

Synonyms: **bright, brilliant, radiant, lustrous, lambent, luminous, incandescent, effulgent**

These adjectives refer to what emits or reflects light. *Bright* is the most general: *bright sunshine; a bright white shirt*. *Brilliant* implies intense brightness and often suggests sparkling or gleaming light: *brilliant floodlights; a brilliant gemstone*.

Something *radiant* emits or seems to emit light in rays: *a radiant sunrise; a table set with radiant crystal*.

A *lustrous* object reflects an agreeable sheen: *thick, lustrous hair*.

Lambent applies to a soft, flickering light: *"its tranquil streets, bathed in the lambent green of budding trees"* (James C. McKinley).

Luminous especially refers to something that glows in the dark: *a luminous watch dial*.

Incandescent stresses burning brilliance: *fireworks exploding in incandescent colors*.

Effulgent suggests splendid radiance: *"The crocus, the snowdrop, and the effulgent daffodil are considered bright harbingers of spring"* (John Gould). See Also Synonyms at [intelligent](#).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

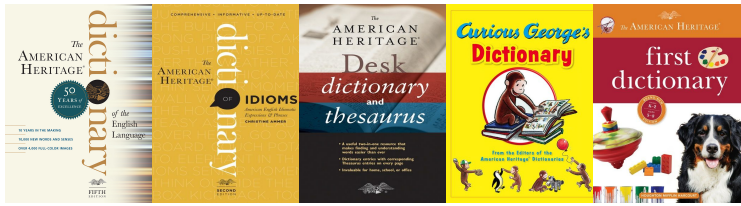
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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