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-blast

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suff.

1. *Biology* An immature, embryonic stage in the development of cells or tissues: *erythroblast*.
2. *Geology* A crystal or mineral deposit formed in metamorphic rock: *porphyroblast*.

[From Greek *blastos*, bud, germ, of unknown origin.]

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blast-

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pref.

Variant of [blasto-](#).

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blast  (blăst)

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n.

1.
 - a. A very strong gust of wind or air.
 - b. The effect of such a gust.
 2. A forcible stream of air, gas, or steam from an opening, especially one in a blast furnace to aid combustion.
 3.
 - a. A sudden loud sound, especially one produced by a stream of forced air: *a piercing blast from the steam whistle*.
 - b. The act of producing such a sound: *gave a blast on his trumpet*.
 4.
 - a. A violent explosion, as of dynamite or a bomb.
 - b. The violent effect of such an explosion, consisting of a wave of increased atmospheric pressure followed immediately by a wave of decreased pressure.
 - c. An explosive charge.
 5. *Botany* Any of several plant diseases of diverse causes, resulting in sudden death of buds, flowers, foliage, or young fruits.
 6. A destructive or damaging influence.
 7. A powerful hit, blow, or shot.
 8. A violent verbal assault or outburst: *The candidate leveled a blast at her opponent*.
 9. *Slang* A highly exciting or pleasurable experience or event, such as a big party.
- v. **blast·ed, blast·ing, blasts**
- v. *tr.*
1. To knock down or shatter by explosion; smash.
 2. To play or sound loudly: *The amplifiers blasted the music*.

3.
a. To cause to move with great force; hurl: *The volcanic eruption blasted rock far and wide.*
b. To make or open by explosion: *blast a tunnel through the mountains.*
4.
a. To shoot or destroy by shooting: *fighter jets trying to blast each other out of the sky.*
b. *Sports* To hit, kick, or shoot (a ball or puck) with great force.
5. To have a harmful or destructive effect on: *a loss that blasted our hopes of making the playoffs.*
6. To criticize or attack vigorously: *blasted the mayor for hypocrisy.*
7. To cause to shrivel, wither, or mature imperfectly by blast or blight: *crops that were blasted by frost.*
- v. *intr.*
1. To use or detonate explosives.
2. To emit a loud, intense sound; blare: *speakers blasting at full volume.*
3. To discharge a weapon, especially repeatedly; shoot: *blasted away at the target.*
4. To attack someone or something verbally; criticize.
5. To move with great speed or power: *a motorcycle blasting down the road.*
6. *Electronics* To distort sound recording or transmission by overloading a microphone or loudspeaker.
7. To wither or shrivel or mature imperfectly.

Phrasal Verb:

blast off

To take off, as a rocket.

Idiom:

full blast

At full speed, volume, or capacity: *turned the radio up full blast.*

[Middle English, from Old English *blǣst*; see **bhlē-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

blast *er n.*

Synonyms: [blast](#), [blight](#), [dash](#)¹, [wither](#), [wreck](#)

These verbs mean to have a pernicious, destructive, or ruinous effect on something: *actions that blasted any chance for peace; a neighborhood blighted by poverty; ambitions dashed by lack of funds; a harsh critique that withered their enthusiasm; a life wrecked by depression.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

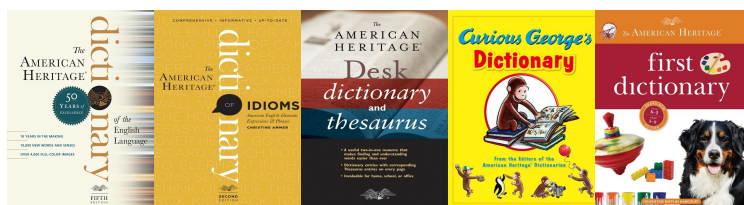
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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