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dictionary

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Language



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in·flate  (ĭn-flāt)

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v. **in·flat·ed**, **in·flat·ing**, **in·flates**

v.*tr.*

1. To fill (something) with air or gas so as to make it swell: *inflated the balloon with helium.*

2.

a. To fill with pride; aggrandize: *positive reviews that inflated the actor's ego.*

b. To represent as greater or more important than is in fact the case: *inflated the box office receipts to mislead the investors.* See Synonyms at [exaggerate](#).

3. To cause (a currency or economy) to undergo inflation.

v.*intr.*

To become inflated.

[Middle English *inflaten*, from Latin *inflāre*, *inflāt-* : *in-*, in; see [IN-](#)² + *flāre*, to blow; see **bhlē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

in·fla tor, **in·flat er** *n.*

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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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