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dictionary

of the
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su·per·flu·ous  (s -pûr fl -əs)

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adj.

Being beyond what is required or sufficient.

[Middle English, from Old French *superflueux*, from Latin *superfluus*, from *superfluere*, to overflow : *super-*, *super-* + *fluere*, to flow; see **bhleu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

su·per flu·ous·ly *adv.*

su·per flu·ous·ness *n.*

Synonyms: superfluous, excess, extra, supernumerary, surplus

These adjectives mean being more than is needed, desired, required, or appropriate: *delete superfluous words; trying to lose excess weight; found some extra change on the dresser; supernumerary ornamentation; distributed surplus food to the needy.*

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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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