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tran·si·ent  (trăn zē-ənt, -zhənt, -shənt)

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adj.

1. Passing with time; transitory: "*the transient beauty of youth*" (Lydia M. Child).
2. Remaining in a place only a brief time: *transient laborers*.
3. *Physics* Decaying with time, especially as a simple exponential function of time.

n.

1. One that is transient, especially a hotel guest or boarder who stays for only a brief time.
2. *Physics* A transient phenomenon or property, especially a transient electric current.

[Alteration of Latin *trānsiēns*, *trānseunt*-, present participle of *trānsīre*, to go over : *trāns*-, over; see [TRANS-](#) + *īre*, to go; see [ei-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

tran si·ent·ly *adv.*

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