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Language



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dys·pro·si·um  (dĭs-prō zē-əm, -zhē-əm)

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n. Symbol Dy

A soft, silvery metallic element of the lanthanide series occurring in the minerals monazite and bastnaesite, used in nuclear reactor control rods and in the manufacture of laser materials and compact discs. Atomic number 66; atomic weight 162.50; melting point 1,412°C; boiling point 2,567°C; specific gravity 8.551; valence 3. See [Periodic Table](#).

[New Latin, from Greek *dusprositōs*, difficult to approach (from its rarity in nature) : *dus-*, *dys-* + *prositōs*, approachable (from *prosienai*, to approach : *pros-*, toward + *ienai*, *i-*, to go; see **ei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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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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