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o·ri·ent  (ôr ē-ənt, -ěnt')

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n.

1. **Orient** The countries of Asia, especially of eastern Asia.

2.

a. The luster characteristic of a pearl of high quality.

b. A pearl having exceptional luster.

3. *Archaic* The place on the horizon where the sun rises; the east.

adj.

1. Having exceptional luster: *orient gemstones*.

2. *Archaic* Eastern; oriental.

tr.v. (ôr ē-ěnt') **or·i·ent·ed**, **or·i·ent·ing**, **or·i·ents**

1.

a. To align or position in a particular direction or in a particular relation to the points of the compass: *orient the swimming pool north and south; oriented the telescope toward the moon*.

b. To build (a church) with the nave laid out in an east-west direction and the main altar usually at the eastern end.

2. To determine the bearings of (oneself); cause (one) to know one's position in relation to the surroundings: *oriented himself by the neon sign on top of the building*.

3. To make familiar with a new situation: *events to help students get oriented to life on campus*.

4. To provide with a primary purpose or focus of attention: *a medical system that is oriented toward the prevention of disease*.

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *oriēns*, *orient-*, rising sun, east, from present participle of *orīrī*, to arise, be born; see **er-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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