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gel·a·tin also **gel·a·tine**  (jĕl ə-tĭn)

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n.

1.

a. A colorless or slightly yellow, transparent, brittle protein formed by boiling the specially prepared skin, bones, and connective tissue of animals and used in foods, drugs, and photographic film.

b. Any of various similar substances.

2. A jelly made with gelatin, used as a dessert or salad base.

3. A thin sheet made of colored gelatin used in theatrical lighting. Also called *gel*.

[French *gélatine*, from Italian *gelatina*, diminutive of *gelata*, jelly, from feminine past participle of *gelare*, to freeze, from Latin *gelāre*; see **gel-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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