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n.

1.

a. *Symbol Au* A soft, yellow, corrosion-resistant element, the most malleable and ductile metal, occurring in veins and alluvial deposits and recovered by mining, panning, or sluicing. A good thermal and electrical conductor, gold is generally alloyed to increase its strength, and it is used as a common monetary standard, in jewelry, for decoration, and as a plated coating on a wide variety of electrical and mechanical components. Atomic number 79; atomic weight 196.967; melting point 1,064.2°C; boiling point 2,856.0°C; specific gravity 19.3; valence 1, 3. See [Periodic Table](#).

b. Coinage made of this element.

c. A gold standard.

2. Money; riches.

3. A light olive-brown to dark yellow, or a moderate, strong to vivid yellow.

4. Something regarded as having great value or goodness: *a heart of gold*.

5. A medal made of gold awarded to one placing first in a competition, as in the Olympics: *won 9 golds in 13 events*.

adj.

Having the color of gold.

[Middle English, from Old English; see **ghel-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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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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