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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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glimpse  (glɪmps)

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n.

1. A brief, incomplete view or look.

2. *Archaic* A brief flash of light.

v. **glimpsed**, **glimps·ing**, **glimps·es**

v.tr.

To obtain a brief, incomplete view of.

v.intr.

To look briefly; glance: *glimpsed at the headlines.*

[Middle English *glimsen*, to glisten, glance; see **ghel-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

glimps *er n.*

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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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