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AMERICAN
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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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gild ¹ (gĭld)

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tr.v. **gild·ed** or **gilt** (gĭlt), **gild·ing**, **gilds**

1. To cover with or as if with a thin layer of gold.
2. To give an often deceptively attractive or improved appearance to.
3. *Archaic* To smear with blood.

Idiom:

gild the lily

1. To adorn unnecessarily something already beautiful.
2. To make superfluous additions to what is already complete.

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

gild *er n.*

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gild ² (gĭld)

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n.

Variant of [guild](#).

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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:

[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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