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gloss¹  (glôś, glôs)

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n.

1. A surface shininess or luster.
2. A kind of paint that dries to a shiny finish.
3. A cosmetic that adds shine or luster, such as lip gloss.
4. A superficially or deceptively attractive appearance or good reputation: *The firm lost some of its gloss when its investments performed poorly.*

tr.v. **glossed, gloss-ing, gloss-es**

1. To give a bright sheen or luster to.
2. To apply a gloss to: *glossed her lips.*

Phrasal Verb:

gloss over

To make attractive or acceptable by deception or superficial treatment: *a résumé that glossed over the applicant's lack of experience.*

[Perhaps of Scandinavian origin; akin to Icelandic *glossi*, a spark; see **ghel**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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gloss²  (glôś, glôs)

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n.

1.
 - a. A brief explanatory note or translation of a difficult or technical expression usually inserted in the margin or between lines of a text or manuscript.
 - b. A collection of such notes; a glossary.
2. An extensive commentary, often accompanying a text or publication.
3. A purposefully misleading interpretation or explanation.

tr.v. **glossed, gloss-ing, gloss-es**

1. To provide (an expression or a text) with a gloss or glosses.
2. To give a false interpretation to.

[Middle English *glose*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *glōsa*, from Latin *glōssa*, foreign word requiring explanation, from Greek, tongue, language.]

gloss *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:

Indo-European Roots

Semitic Roots

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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- [illegible]

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