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dictionary

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English
Language



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dif·fuse  (dĭ-fy z)

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v. dif·fused, dif·fus·ing, dif·fus·es

v.tr.

1. To cause to spread out freely: *smoke that is diffused throughout the room.*
2. To make known to or cause to be used by large numbers of people; disseminate: *diffuses ideas over the internet.*
3. To make less brilliant; soften: *light that is diffused through frosted glass.*
4. To make less intense; weaken: *a remark that diffused the tension in the interview.*
5. *Physics* To cause to undergo diffusion.

v.intr.

1. To become widely dispersed; spread out: *The hormone diffuses throughout the body.*
2. *Physics* To undergo diffusion.

adj. (dĭ-fy s)

1. Widely spread or scattered; not concentrated: *Diffuse light is often hard to read by.*
2. Wordy or unclear: *a diffuse description.* See Synonyms at [wordy](#).

[From Middle English, dispersed, from Anglo-Norman *diffus*, from Latin *diffūsus*, past participle of *diffundere*, to spread : *dis-*, out, apart; see [DIS-](#) + *fundere*, to pour; see **gheu-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

dif·fuse ly (-fy s lē) *adv.*

dif·fuse ness (-fy s nīs) *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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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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