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clev·er  (klěv ər)

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adj. **clev·er·er**, **clev·er·est**

1.

a. Mentally quick and original; bright: *a clever student*.

b. Skilled at accomplishing things, especially with the hands: *a clever carpenter*.

c. Crafty; cunning: "*a hard-working kid who rose from poverty, only to be duped by rich, clever bankers*" ([Jeff Goodell](#)).

2.

a. Exhibiting ingenuity or imagination; creative or artful: *a clever experiment*.

b. Witty; amusing: *an evening of clever repartee*.

c. Characterized by cunning or shrewdness: *clever manipulation of public opinion*.

3. *New England* Easily managed; docile: "*Oxen must be pretty clever to be bossed around the way they are*" (*Dialect Notes*).

4. *Chiefly Southern US* Good-natured; amiable.

[Middle English *cliver*; akin to East Frisian *klifer*, *klüfer*; see **gleubh-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

clev er·ly *adv.*

clev er·ness *n.*

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