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wel·come  (wĕl kəm)

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adj.

1. Received with pleasure and hospitality into one's company or home: *a welcome guest.*
2. Giving pleasure or satisfaction; agreeable or gratifying: *a welcome respite from hard work.*
3. Cordially or willingly permitted or invited: *You are welcome to join us.*
4. Used in the expression *you're welcome* to acknowledge an expression of gratitude.

n.

1. A cordial greeting or hospitable reception given to an arriving person.
2. A reception upon arrival: *gave the stranger an unfriendly welcome.*
3. The state of being welcome: *Don't overstay your welcome.*

tr.v. **wel·comed**, **wel·com·ing**, **wel·comes**

1. To greet, receive, or entertain (another or others) cordially or hospitably.
2. To receive or accept gladly: *would welcome a little privacy.*

interj.

Used to greet cordially a visitor or recent arrival.

Idiom:

wear out (one's) welcome

To visit so often or stay so long as to become a nuisance.

[Middle English, alteration (influenced by *wel*, *well*) of Old English *wilcuma*, welcome guest, welcome; see **g^wā-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

wel come·ly *adv.*

wel come·ness *n.*

wel com·er *n.*

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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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