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dictionary

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English
Language



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quick·sil·ver  (kwĭk sĭl'vər)

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n.

See [mercury](#).

adj.

Unpredictable; mercurial: *"a quicksilver character, cool and willful at one moment, utterly fragile the next" (Sven Birkerts).*

[Middle English, from Old English *cwicseolfor*, living silver (translation of Latin *argentum vĭvum*) : *cwic*, *cwicu*, alive; see **g^wei-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *seolfor*, silver; see [SILVER](#).]

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