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bo·lide  (bō līd, -līd)

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n.

A meteoric flash or flare created when a meteoroid explodes or vaporizes as it passes through Earth's atmosphere. Also called *fireball*.

[French, from Latin *bolis*, *bolid-*, kind of meteor, from Greek, missile, flash (of lightning), from *ballein*, to throw; see [gʷelə-](#) [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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