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éclair  (ā-klâr , ā klâr') or **eclair**  (ē-klâr , ā-klâr , ə-klâr)

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n.

An elongated pastry filled with custard or whipped cream and usually iced with chocolate.

[French, from Old French *esclair*, lightning, from *esclairier*, to light up, from Vulgar Latin **exclāriāre*, from Latin *exclārāre* : *ex-*, intensive pref.; see [EX-](#) + *clārus*, clear; see *kelə*-² in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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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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