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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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qui·et  (kwī ĭt)

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adj. qui·et·er, qui·et·est

1. Making or characterized by little or no noise: *a quiet library; a quiet street; a quiet, well tuned engine.*

2.

a. Free of turmoil and agitation; calm: *a quiet lake; a quiet place in the country.*

b. Providing or allowing relaxation; restful; soothing: *a quiet afternoon nap; a quiet tune on the flute.*

3. Not showy or bright; subdued: *a room decorated in quiet colors.*

4. Restrained, as in style; understated: *a quiet strength; a quiet life.*

5. Out of public scrutiny; known or discussed by few: *wanted to keep the incident quiet until after the election.*

n.

The quality or condition of being quiet: *"A menacing quiet fills the empty streets" (Time).*

v. qui·et·ed, qui·et·ing, qui·ets

v.tr.

1. To cause to become quiet: *The teacher quieted the students.*

2. To make (a title) secure by freeing from uncertainties or adverse claims as to the ownership.

v.intr.

To become quiet: *The child wouldn't quiet down for me.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *quiētus*, past participle of *quiēscere*, to rest; see **k^weiə-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

qui et·ly *adv.*

qui et·ness *n.*

Synonyms: quiet, silent, still¹, noiseless, soundless

These adjectives mean marked by or making no sound, noise, or movement. *Quiet* suggests the absence of bustle, tumult, or agitation: *"life being very short, and the quiet hours of it few"* (John Ruskin).

Silent can suggest a profound hush: *"I like the silent church before the service begins"* (Ralph Waldo Emerson).

Still implies lack of motion or disturbance and often connotes rest or tranquility: *"But after tempest ... / There came a day as still as heaven"* (Tennyson).

Noiseless and *soundless* imply the absence of disturbing sound: *"th' inaudible and noiseless foot of time"* (Shakespeare). *"the soundless footsteps on the grass"* (John Galsworthy).

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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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