



# The Britannica Dictionary

## illuminate

### illuminate

2 ENTRIES FOUND:

- [illuminate \(verb\)](#)
- [illuminated \(adjective\)](#)

illuminate /ɪˈluːmeɪn/  verb  
illuminates; illuminated; illuminating

illuminate

/ɪˈluːmeɪn/

verb

illuminates; illuminated; illuminating

Britannica Dictionary definition of ILLUMINATE

[+ object]

**1**

: to supply (something) with light : to shine light on (something)

- Candles *illuminate* [=light] the church.
- the part of the moon *illuminated* by the sun

[\[+\] more examples](#) [\[-\] hide examples](#) [\[+\] Example sentences](#) [\[-\] Hide examples](#)

**2**

: to make (something) clear and easier to understand

- A university study has *illuminated* the problem.

[\[+\] more examples](#) [\[-\] hide examples](#) [\[+\] Example sentences](#) [\[-\] Hide examples](#)

### — illuminating

adjective [more illuminating; most illuminating]

- The lecture was very *illuminating*.
- an *illuminating* discussion

[\[+\] more examples](#) [\[-\] hide examples](#) [\[+\] Example sentences](#) [\[-\] Hide examples](#)

#### ASK THE EDITOR

What is the difference between "I invited them in" and "I invited them" (without 'in')?

[See the answer »](#)

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#### WORD OF THE DAY



**intimate**  
: very personal or private  
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