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*Meaning of **illuminate** in English*

illuminate

verb [T] • formal

US /ɪˈluːmə.neɪt/ UK /ɪˈluː.mɪ.neɪt/

to light something and make it brighter:

• *The streets were illuminated with strings of colored lights.*

to explain and show more clearly something that is difficult to understand:

• *an article which illuminates the issues at stake*

SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

Giving out light

albedo	bioluminescence
brighten	burnished
candlelit	dapple
dazzle	flicker
glare	out-glitter
pearlescence	pearlescent
redshift	refulgent
shimmer	shine
spotlight	trick
UV	wink

See more results »

You can also find related words, phrases, and synonyms in the topics:

Defining & explaining

(Definition of ***illuminate*** from the ***Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus*** © Cambridge University Press)

illuminate | INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH

illuminate

verb [T]

US /ɪˈluːmə.neɪt/

to put light in or on something:

• *The buildings were illuminated at night.*

If you illuminate a subject, you explain it:

• *This article illuminates the basic principles of economics.*

(Definition of ***illuminate*** from the ***Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary*** © Cambridge University Press)

EXAMPLES of **illuminate**

illuminate

Their investigation of the image begins with a close examination of what looks like an object, illuminated by the searchlights in the photo.

From Los Angeles Times

Other times a lightening bolt tears a wound in the old to *illuminate* what is new.

From Huffington Post

We're hoping we can present that data on ending veteran homelessness and *illuminate* it to help folks understand the importance.

From ThinkProgress

Many studies have illuminated the causes and possible treatments for autism, but mainstream physicians or scientists ignore most of this data.

From Huffington Post

Illuminating a murky situation because you understand it better than almost anyone.

From The Atlantic

An interesting read, it illuminates familiar places in different light.

From Washington Times

Everything is bigger, the threads of a season can *illuminate* through music.

From Billboard

This dozen is meant to *illuminate* something bigger: a broken system that allows industrial chemicals to be used without any significant testing for safety.

From The Atlantic

The study has illuminated some personal stories of loneliness, to pure desire.

From ABC News

In industrial facilities, they can also be artificially illuminated.

From Phys.Org

Few writers better *illuminate* the mind's most disturbing corners.

From The Seattle Times

And it helps *illuminate* his uneasy relationship with his conservative colleagues.

From NPR

These examples are from corpora and from sources on the web. Any opinions in the examples do not represent the opinion of the Cambridge Dictionary editors or of Cambridge University Press or its licensors.

Translations of **illuminate**

in Chinese (Traditional)
為…照明，照亮, 闡明，解釋…
See more

in Chinese (Simplified)
为…照明，照亮, 阐明，解释…
See more

in Spanish
iluminar, alumbrar…
See more

in Portuguese
iluminar, esclarecer…
See more

in more languages

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What is the pronunciation of *illuminate*?

Browse

illocutionary
illogical
illogicality
illogically
illuminate
illuminated
illuminati
illuminating
illumination

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WORD OF THE DAY
exhibit
an object that is shown to the public in a museum, etc.
About this

BLOG
A class act and nerves of steel: talking about people you like and admire (2)
May 18, 2022
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plant-flex
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