

- Top Definitions Synonyms Quiz Related Content Examples British

# illuminate

[ verb ih-**loo**-muh-neyt; adjective, noun ih-**loo**-muh-nit, -neyt ] SHOW IPA

See synonyms for: illuminate / illuminated / illuminating on Thesaurus.com Middle School Level

verb (used with object), **il-lu-mi-nat-ed**, **il-lu-mi-nat-ing**.

- 1 to supply or brighten with light; light up.
2 to make lucid or clear; throw light on (a subject).

SEE MORE

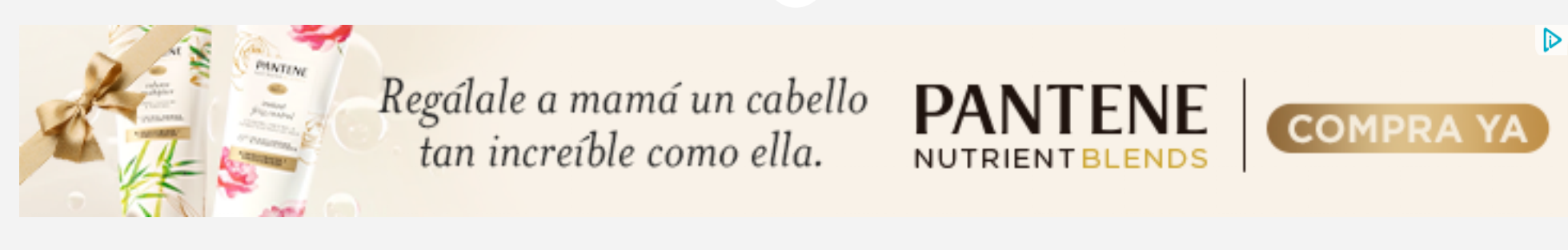
verb (used without object), **il-lu-mi-nat-ed**, **il-lu-mi-nat-ing**.

- 7 to display lights, as in celebration.
8 to become illuminated.

adjective

- 9 Archaic. illuminated.
10 Obsolete. enlightened.

SEE MORE DEFINITIONS



## OTHER WORDS FOR ILLUMINATE

- 2 clarify, explain, elucidate.

See synonyms for illuminate on Thesaurus.com

## QUIZ

### GOOSE. GEESES. I WANT THIS QUIZ ON PLURAL NOUNS!

Test how much you really know about regular and irregular plural nouns with this quiz.

#### QUESTION 1 OF 9

Which of the following nouns has an irregular plural form?

Input fields containing: cactus, wallet, goat, party

TAKE THE QUIZ TO FIND OUT

## ORIGIN OF ILLUMINATE

1400–50; late Middle English <Latin *illuminātus* (past participle of *illumināre* to light up, brighten). See illumine, -ate<sup>1</sup>

## OTHER WORDS FROM ILLUMINATE

- il-lu-mi-nat-ing-ly, adverb
pre-il-lu-mi-nate, verb (used with object)
re-il-lu-mi-nate, verb, re-il-lu-mi-nat-ed, re-il-lu-mi-nat-ing.
sem-i-il-lu-mi-nat-ed, adjective

SEE MORE RELATED FORMS

## WORDS NEARBY ILLUMINATE

illude, illumine, illuminable, illuminance, illuminant, illuminate, illuminati, illuminating, illumination, illuminative, illuminator

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## WORDS RELATED TO ILLUMINATE

brighten, flash, highlight, light up, spotlight, clarify, define, dramatize, elucidate, explain, illustrate, fire, floodlight, ignite, illumine, irradiate, kindle, light, lighten

## HOW TO USE ILLUMINATE IN A SENTENCE

The beast stood immobile, glaring at us with yellow eyes in the winter dark and *illuminated* unevenly by Sergey's light as our pace quickened.

THE QUEST TO SNARE—AND SAVE—THE WORLD'S LARGEST OWL | JONATHAN SLAGHT | AUGUST 28, 2020 | POPULAR-SCIENCE

What's really interesting, though, are the fuzzy jets and streamers surrounding the comet, which are especially prominent when *illuminated* like this from behind.

THESE IMAGES EXPOSE THE DARK SIDE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM - ISSUE 89: THE DARK SIDE | COREY S. POWELL | AUGUST 26, 2020 | NAUTILUS

Even if nothing is actually decided at the conventions, they still shine a spotlight on the parties, illuminating emerging factions and up-and-coming politicians, setting the stage for — and creating — the future of each party.

WHY CONVENTIONS STILL MATTER | JULIA AZARI | AUGUST 17, 2020 | FIVETHIRTYEIGHT

Visitors will enter through an *illuminated* maze, then be invited to contribute words from kiosks, after which an AI-powered algorithm will collect and parse them into poetry, and perhaps shoot them into outer space.

THE STORY BEHIND THE EIFFEL TOWER'S FORGOTTEN COMPETITORS | FIONA ZUBLIN | AUGUST 10, 2020 | OZY

SEE MORE EXAMPLES

## BRITISH DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS FOR ILLUMINATE

# illuminate

verb (iˈluːmiˌneɪt)

- 1 (tr) to throw light in or into; light up: to illuminate a room
2 (tr) to make easily understood; clarify
3 to adorn, decorate, or be decorated with lights
4 (tr) to decorate (a letter, page, etc) by the application of colours, gold, or silver

SEE MORE

adjective (iˈluːmɪnɪt, -,neɪt)

- 6 archaic made clear or bright with light; illuminated

noun (iˈluːmɪnɪt, -,neɪt)

- 7 a person who has or claims to have special enlightenment

## DERIVED FORMS OF ILLUMINATE

- illuminative, adjective
illuminator, noun

## WORD ORIGIN FOR ILLUMINATE

C16: from Latin *illumināre* to light up, from *lūmen* light

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WORD OF THE DAY hootenanny noun | [hoot-n-an-ee] SEE DEFINITION

