



Definition of **illuminate** verb from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

illuminate *verb*

/ɪˈluːmɪneɪt/

/ɪˈluːmɪneɪt/

+ Verb Forms

1 ★ **illuminate something** (*formal*) to shine light on something

- Floodlights illuminated the stadium.
- The earth is illuminated by the sun.

+ Extra Examples

+ Oxford Collocations Dictionary

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2 ★ **illuminate something** (*formal*) to make something clearer or easier to understand

SYNONYM [clarify](#)

- This text illuminates the philosopher's early thinking.

+ Extra Examples

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3 ★ **illuminate something** to decorate a street, building, etc. with bright lights for a special occasion

4 ★ **illuminate something** (*literary*) to make a person's face, etc. seem bright and excited

SYNONYM [light up](#) (2)

- Her smile illuminated her entire being.

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