

electric 1 of 2 adjective

elec·tric (i-'lek-trik) ē-

Synonyms of *electric* >

1 or **electrical** (i-'lek-tri-kəl) ē- : of, relating to, or operated by electricity

an *electric* current

an *electric* heater

2 : exciting as if by electric shock

an *electric* performance

an *electric* personality

also : charged with strong emotion

the room was *electric* with tension

3 a : ELECTRONIC sense 3a

b : amplifying sound by electronic means → used of a musical instrument

an *electric* guitar

4 : very bright

electric blue

electric orange

(i-'lek-tri-k(ə)-lĕ) ē- **adverb**

electric 2 of 2 noun

1 **archaic** : a nonconductor of electricity used to excite or accumulate electricity

2 : something (such as a light, automobile, or train) operated by electricity



The word *electric* is derived from the Greek word for amber, *elektron*. It is only in modern times that practical use has been made of electricity, but some electrical phenomena have been known since antiquity. Certain philosophers of ancient Greece found that by rubbing amber with a piece of cloth, they could enable the amber to pick up light objects, such as feathers. In the 17th century, students of natural science began to discover that other natural phenomena were related to the effect of friction on amber.

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electrifying
 exhilarating
 galvanic
 hair-raising
 inspiring
 kicky
 mind-blowing
 rip-roaring
 stimulating
 thrilling

energized
 exciting
 exhilarative
 galvanizing
 heart-stopping
 intoxicating
 mind-bending
 mind-boggling
 rousing
 stirring

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Adjective

The device administers a mild *electric* shock.
 It plugs into any *electric* socket.
 The *electrical* cord is damaged.

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Recent Examples on the Web

Adjective

Miles Byrd had eight points, breaking a 2-of-18 slump from behind the arc with a pair of 3s, and two steals in seven *electric* first-half minutes.
 – Mark Zeigler, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, 22 Dec. 2023
 Meanwhile, purchasing the right *electric* vehicle could also score you a credit as high as \$7,500.
 – E. Napoletano, *wsj.com*, 22 Dec. 2023

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new Latin *electricus* produced from amber by friction, electric, from medieval Latin, or amber, from Latin *electrum* amber, electrum, from Greek *ēlektron*; akin to Greek *ēlektōr* beaming sun

First Known Use

Adjective

1722, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Noun

1646, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Time Traveler

The first known use of *electric* was in 1646

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electric fence

electric eye

electric organ

electric ray

electric scooter

diesel-electric

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'Whole Milk', 'British English', and 16...



electret

electric

electrical degree

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electric 1 of 2 adjective

elec·tric (i-'lek-trik)

1 or **electrical** (-tri-kəl): of, relating to, operated by, or produced by electricity

an *electric* current

an *electric* charge

an *electric* stove

2 : having a thrilling effect

an *electric* performance

-tri-k(ə-)lē **adverb**

-kəl-nəs **noun**

electric 2 of 2 noun

: something (as a light, automobile, or train) operated by electricity

Etymology

Adjective

from scientific Latin *electricus* "produced from amber by friction," derived from earlier Latin *electrum* "amber," derived from Greek *ēlektron* (same meaning); so called because static electricity was first discovered by the friction produced by rubbing a piece of amber

electric adjective

elec·tric (i-'lek-trik)

variants or **electrical** (-tri-kəl)

: of, relating to, or operated by electricity

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English: Translation of *electric* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica English: Translation of *electric* for Arabic Speakers

Last Updated: 26 Dec 2023 - Updated example sentences

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L	O	V	E	R
P	L	A	Y	S
D	A	I	L	Y

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WORD OF THE DAY

diligent

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

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