



SINCE 1828

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enhance



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# enhance

[verb](#)

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en·hance | \ in-'han(t)s  , en-\  
enhanced; enhancing

## Definition of *enhance*

[transitive verb](#)


1 : [heighten](#), [increase](#) especially : to increase or improve in value, quality, desirability, or attractiveness *enhanced*  
the room with crown molding

2 obsolete : [raise](#)

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## Other Words from *enhance*

enhancement \ in-'han(t)-smənt  , en- \ noun

## Synonyms & Antonyms for *enhance*

Synonyms

- [ameliorate](#),
- [amend](#),
- [better](#),
- [enrich](#),
- [help](#),
- [improve](#),
- [meliorate](#),
- [perfect](#),
- [refine](#),
- [upgrade](#)

Antonyms

- [worsen](#)

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## Enhance Has Latin Roots

When *enhance* was borrowed into English in the 13th century, it meant “to raise.” That sense, though now obsolete, provides a clue about the origins of the word. Spelled *enhauncen* in Middle English, the word comes to us from Anglo-French *enhaucer* or *enhauncer* (“to raise”), which can be traced back to the Vulgar Latin verb *inaltiare*. That word, in turn, was formed by combining the prefix *in-* with Latin *altus*, meaning “high.” Although *enhance* initially applied only to physically making things higher, it developed an additional and less literal sense

"to exalt especially in rank or spirit" and quickly acquired figurative senses for "raising" the value or attractiveness of something or someone.

## Examples of *enhance* in a Sentence

You can *enhance* the flavor of the dish by using fresh herbs. The image has been digitally *enhanced* to show more detail.

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Recent Examples on the Web Jacksonville athletics director Alex Ricker-Gilbert said the move was made to strengthen the university as well as to *enhance* the experience for all students. — [Matt Murschel](#), [orlandosentinel.com](#), "Jacksonville University ending its football program after 21 seasons," 3 Dec. 2019 The additional funds will be used for infrastructure and maintenance needs to *enhance* the visitor experience. — [USA TODAY](#), "A subway Thanksgiving, too-high horse, gift wrap wars: News from around our 50 states," 27 Nov. 2019

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'enhance.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).

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## First Known Use of *enhance*

13th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 2](#)

## History and Etymology for *enhance*

Middle English *enhauncen*, from Anglo-French *enhaucer*, *enhauncer*, from Vulgar Latin *\*inaltiare*, from Latin *in* + *altus* high — more at [old](#)

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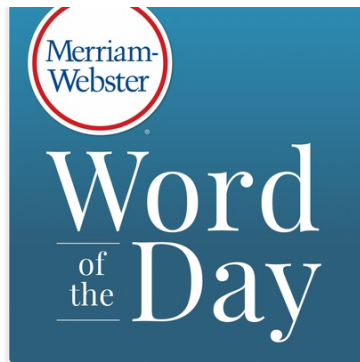
Time Traveler for *enhance*



## The first known use of *enhance* was in the 13th century

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12 Dec 2019

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Top 10% of words

Cite this Entry

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Style:

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More Definitions for *enhance*

enhance

[verb](#)




## English Language Learners Definition of *enhance*

: to increase or improve (something)

[See the full definition for \*enhance\* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.](#)

enhance

[verb](#)

en·hance | \ in-'hans  \  
enhanced; enhancing

## Kids Definition of *enhance*

: to make greater or better The products claim to *enhance* beauty.

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