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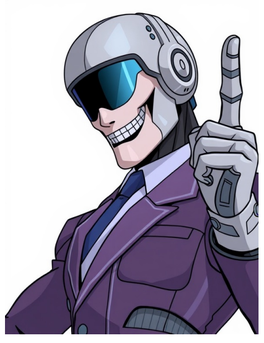

From Middle English clene, clane, from Old English clǣne ("clean, pure"), from Proto-West Germanic *klainī ("shining, fine, splendid, tender"), perhaps from Proto-Indo-European *glēy- ("gleaming"), from Proto-Indo-European *gel- ("to gleam"). Cognate with Scots clean ("absolute, pure, clear, empty") and clene, clane ("clean"), North Frisian klien ("small"), West Frisian klien ("small"), klean ("clean"), Dutch klein ("small"), Low German kleen ("small"), German klein ("small"), Swedish klen ("weak, feeble, delicate"), Icelandic klénn ("poor, feeble, petty, snug, puny, cheesy, lame"). clean (comparative cleaner, superlative cleanest) Free of dirt, filth, or impurities (extraneous matter); not dirty, filthy, or soiled. Are these dishes clean? Your room is finally clean!For a baby, happiness is a full bottle and a clean diaper. 1913, Mrs. [Marie] Belloc Lowndes, chapter II, in The Lodger, London: Methuen, →OCLC; republished in Novels of Mystery: The Lodger; The Story of Ivy; What Really Happened, New York, N.Y.: Longmans, Green and Co., […], [1933], →OCLC:Then his sallow face brightened, for the hall had been carefully furnished, and was very clean. There was a neat hat-and-umbrella stand, and the stranger's weary feet fell soft on a good, serviceable dark-red drugget, which matched in colour the flock-paper on the walls. 1964, Coastal Engineering Research Center (U.S.), Technical Memorandum - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Engineering Research Center, page 69:Very fine, well-sorted, clean sand with no shells. 2020 June 2, Amy Woodyatt, "Scientists say they have found the cleanest air on Earth", in CNN[1]:Scientists believe they have identified the world's cleanest air, free from particles caused by human activity, located over the Southern Ocean, which surrounds Antarctica. (of metal) Having relatively few impurities. Free of contamination, (unwanted) germs, infection, or disease. Insert a clean swab into your nose. 2023 October 14, HarryBlank, "Face Time", in SCP Foundation[2], archived from the original on 23 May 2024:"Serious as cognitohazard." Lillihammer danced down the corridor towards them, doing little pirouettes and leaping from toe to toe. "Reuben Wirth no longer exists. Gonna have to get Forsythe to do that brain scan to make sure I'm clean, but otherwise yeah. Poof." Free of imperfections, blemishes, or defects. Free of immorality or criminality. Pure, especially morally or religiously. Our kids can watch this movie because it is clean. 1833 (date written), Alfred Tennyson, "St. Simeon Stylites", in Poems. […], volume II, London: Edward Moxon, […], published 1842, →OCLC, page 63:Ah! let me knot be fool'd, sweet saints. I trust / That I am whole, and clean, and meet for Heaven. 1914, Parliamentary Debates, volume 168, New Zealand, page 195:I do not think there is any member in this House who will not agree that that is the clean thing to do. Any member sitting on the Government benches will admit in private that that is the proper course for members who break faith. Not using drugs or alcohol. I've been clean this time for eight months. 2014 October 27, Taylor Swift, Imogen Heap, "Clean (Taylor's Version)", in 1989 (Taylor's Version)[3], performed by Taylor Swift, published 27 October 2023:Ten months sober, I must admitJust because you're clean, don't mean you don't miss itTen months older, I won't give inNow that I'm clean, I'm never gonna risk it Free from (or showing no signs of) corrupt, unlawful, and/or sinister conduct or connections (and (of criminal, driving, etc. records) therefore without restrictions or penalties). 2009 May 26, John Earl Haynes, Harvey Klehr, Alexander Vassiliev, Spies: The Rise and Fall of the KGB in America, Yale University Press, →ISBN:It was my dream to be a Soviet spy. The vetting process started, and I was "clean": no Jews in either my background or my wife's, no relatives abroad, already a member of the Soviet Communist Party, high marks on exams, three foreign languages, no dissident inclinations […] 2016 April 5, Sylvia Day, One with You, St. Martin's Griffin, →ISBN:"If the Tramells hadn't passed away, we still wouldn't know. The background check was clean." "How can it be clean, for fuck's sake?" I knocked back the whiskey in one swallow. "Eva's mother used Monica's name, birthdate, and family history, but she never opened a line of credit, which is how most identity theft is discovered." Unlike you, I've never caused any accidents — my record is still clean! (informal) Not in possession of weapons or contraband such as drugs. I'm clean, officer. You can go ahead and search me if you want. (informal) Devoid of profanity. Free of infiltration by covert listening or recording devices (bugs), enemy spies, etc. We are currently clean on OPSEC. 1989, Gayle Rivers, The Killing House, Jove Books, →ISBN:"[Are you sure the] room is clean?" "As a whistle. It's swept at irregular intervals every week." "That still leaves time to plant a bug […]" Empty. Synonyms: vacant, void; see also Thesaurus:empty Mister, I want to see a clean dinner plate or there'll be no dessert for you. Smooth, exact, and performed well. I'll need a sharper knife to make clean cuts. a clean leap over a fence a clean left-footed shot into the top corner of the goal That does not damage the environment (as much as some alternative). 2024 November 8, Luz Pena, "California's gas prices could have major increase with passing of new fuel standards", in ABC7 News[4]:In a press release, CARB expanded on their decision. "The LCFS reduces air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions by setting a declining carbon intensity target for transportation fuels used in California; producers that don't meet established benchmarks buy credits from those that do. This system has generated $4 billion in annual private sector investment toward a cleaner transportation sector." (aerodynamics) Allowing an uninterrupted flow over surfaces, without protrusions such as racks or landing gear. (aviation) Having the undercarriage and flaps in the up position. Antonym: dirty Well-proportioned; shapely. (informal) Cool or neat. Wow, dude, those are some clean shoes ya got there! Utter, complete, total; pure; free from restraint. 2023 July 18, Arianne Shahvisi, Arguing for a Better World: How Philosophy Can Help Us Fight for Social Justice, Penguin, →ISBN, page 1:The clean thrill of getting the right answer gave me a sense of efficacy and rootedness. Even so, on tests at school I rarely got good grades, because I had a terrible habit of not showing my work. (not dirty): Thesaurus:clean clean (plural cleans) Removal of dirt. This place needs a clean. Give the pan a thorough clean. (weightlifting) The first part of the event clean and jerk in which the weight is brought from the ground to the shoulders. (in the plural, metal music) Clear vocals, contrasted with death growls and screams. 2014, T/James Reagan, Leeds House, Amazon Digital Services LLC, →ISBN, page 314:When people complained the songs were too hard, Kyle's clean vocals could bail out the band. Adding cleans would set off a chain reaction though - Kyle's crisp, clear presence could be seen as "betraying" the raw assault that Mike inflicts on the fans with his screams and growls. 2016, Jay Shields, "Tech Fest 2016", in Fraser Mutch, editor, Elite Online Mag, number 78, page 155:Vocalist Kaan is impeccable in his performance engaging with the crowd and soulfully executing both searing screams and hauntingly melodic cleans. 2023 April 17, Jake Richardson, "10 Best Clean Singers in Metalcore", in Loudwire[5], archived from the original on 17 August 2024:The band's more recent output has seen a small amount of cleans find their way in, but for the most part, the Pennsylvania boys rely on the kind of devastating vocal delivery that can be heard on monumental career highlights such as "Marianas Trench." clean-updeep cleanmiscleanpower cleanspring clean clean (third-person singular simple present cleans, present participle cleaning, simple past and past participle cleaned) See also Thesaurus:make clean clean (comparative cleaner, superlative cleanest) Fully and completely. He was stabbed clean through. The wave went clean over the old lighthouse. 1655, James Howell, "To the Right Honourable the Earl of Clare", in Epistolæ Ho-Elianæ. Familiar Letters Domestic and Forren. […], 3rd edition, volume (please specify the page), London: […] Humphrey Mos[e]ley, […], →OCLC:Moreover, I find there are some Words now in French which are turned to a Countersense […] Cocu is taken for one whose Wife is light, and hath made him a passive Cuckold; whereas clean contrary, Cocu, which is the Cuckow, doth use to lay her Eggs in another Bird's Nest. 1897, Richard Marsh, The Beetle:So, since all my pains in his direction were clean thrown away, there was nothing left for me but to scurry back to Marjorie, — so I scurried, and I found the house empty, no one there, and Marjorie gone. 1951 October, William B. Stocks, "A Few Miles from Huddersfield", in Railway Magazine, page 701:A feat sometimes achieved by outstanding local athletes is to throw a cricket ball clean over the top [of the viaduct]. 1956 September, F. F. Nicholls, "Neyland, A Forgotten Harbour", in Railway Magazine, page 632:Now they were faced with the problem of a northerly blow, which could soon send a heavy swell clean into the bay. 1963, Margery Allingham, chapter 1, in The China Governess: A Mystery, London: Chatto & Windus, →OCLC:The huge square box, parquet-floored and high-ceilinged, had been arranged to display a suite of bedroom furniture designed and made in the halcyon days of the last quarter of the nineteenth century, when modish taste was just due to go clean out of fashion for the best part of the next hundred years. arse has gone clean out of 'erarse is clean out of 'erclean-shaven Calne, Lance, Lenca, ancle, clane, lance Borrowed from English clean. clean (neuter clean, plural and definite singular attributive clean) drugfree, not having used recreational drugs Borrowed from English clean. Doublet of klein. IPA(key): [klɪːn] Audio (Germany (Berlin)): clean (strong nominative masculine singular cleaner, comparative cleaner, superlative am cleansten) (colloquial) clean, drugfree 1984 March 26, "99 Luftballons und das Chaos der Gefühle", in Der Spiegel[6], number 13:Nenas Image ist so clean, daß ein paar Zeitschriften nun nach dunklen Punkten suchen und sie erfinden, weil nichts zu finden ist.(please add an English translation of this quotation) "clean" in Duden online "clean" in Digitales Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache From Old Irish clíabán. clean m (genitive singular clean, plural cleanyn) cradle (oscillating bed for a baby) Ta dooinney ny ghaa leaystey clean nagh vel bentyn da hene.There's a man or two rocking the cradle of another man's child. cot cage (of birds) pannier Borrowed from Bulgarian клян (kljan), from Proto-Slavic *klěnь. clean m (plural cleni) WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2025clean /klin/USA pronunciation adj. and adv., -er, -est, v. adj. free from dirt; unsoiled; unstained:a clean dress. free from foreign or extra matter; pure:clean sound. free from pollution:clean air; clean energy. free from roughness or irregularity: a clean cut with a scalpel. gracefully beautiful; trim: the clean lines of a ship. morally pure; innocent; honorable: to lead a clean life. not cheating; showing good sportsmanship:a clean fighter. inoffensive in language or content:clean books. innocent of crime:He had a clean record. free from defects or flaws: a clean diamond. made without any difficulty; quickly and smoothly done: a clean getaway. smoothly and skillfully performed; adroit: a clean swing of the bat. [before a noun] complete; total: a clean break with tradition. empty; bare:a clean sheet of paper. adv. in a clean manner; cleanly:ran up the stairs and got clean away. so as to be clean: This shirt will never wash clean. Informal TermsInformal. completely; quite: The bullet passed clean through the wall. v. to perform or undergo a process of cleaning: [no object]This new countertop cleans easily.[~ + object]I cleaned the room. to dry-clean:[~ + object]Clean and press the pants. to remove the insides and other parts from (poultry, etc.) that cannot be eaten; dress:[~ + object]She cleaned the turkey. clean out, to empty in order to straighten or clean: [~ + out + object]I had to clean out my desk to find what I was looking for.[~ + object + out]I cleaned it out before dinner. to take all the money from (someone); steal or take everything from (a store, etc.): [~ + object + out]They managed to clean him out at poker.[~ + out + object]They cleaned out the gangster and his men with a perfect scam. clean up, to wash or tidy up: [no object]Let me clean up and I'll be right in.[~ + up + object]Please clean up your room.[~ + object + up]Would you clean the room up? to get rid of undesirable persons, features, mistakes, etc., in: [~ + up + object]to clean up the errors in an essay. [~ + object + up]Can you clean them up now? to put an end to; finish: [~ + up + object]to clean up yesterday's chores.[~ + object + up]to clean them up. Informal Terms[no object] to make a large profit or a lot of money:Buy now while the prices are low and later you'll really clean up. Idioms Idioms, Slang Terms come clean, [no object] Slang. to tell the truth, esp. to admit one's guilt:finally came clean and admitted she had been the one. clean•a•ble, adj. clean•ness, n. [uncountable] clean is a verb and an adjective, cleanliness is a noun:We cleaned the house. Take a clean plate. Cleanliness is essential in a hospital. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English © 2025clean (klēn),USA pronunciation adj., -er, -est, adv., -er, -est, v. adj. free from dirt; unsoiled; unstained:She bathed and put on a clean dress. free from foreign or extraneous matter:clean sand. free from pollution; unadulterated; pure:clean air; clean water. habitually free of dirt:Cats are considered clean animals. characterized by a fresh, wholesome quality:the clean smell of pine. free from all writing or marking:a clean sheet of paper. having few or no corrections; easily readable:The publisher demanded clean proofs from the printer. free from roughness or irregularity:He made a clean cut with a razor. not ornate; gracefully spare; forceful and simple; trim; streamlined:a clean literary style; the clean lines of a ship. complete; unqualified:a clean break with tradition. morally pure; innocent; upright; honorable:to lead a clean life. showing good sportsmanship; fair:a clean fighter. inoffensive in language or content; without obscenity. (of a document, record, etc.) bearing no marks of discreditable or unlawful conduct; listing no offenses:a clean driver's license. Slang Terms innocent of any crime. not having a criminal record. carrying or containing no evidence of unlawful activity or intent, as controlled substances, unlicensed weapons, or contraband:The agents searched the car for drugs, but it was clean. not using narcotics. (of a nuclear weapon) producing little or no radioactive fallout. Physicsnot radioactive. (of a document or financial instrument) free from qualifications or restrictions:a clean bill of lading. free from defects or flaws:a clean diamond. free from encumbrances or obstructions. neatly or evenly made or proportioned; shapely; trim:a clean profile. made without any unanticipated difficulty or interference:The bank robbers made a clean getaway. Slang Terms[Chiefly Biblical.]having no physical or moral blemish or carrying no taboo so as to make impure according to the laws, esp. the dietary or ceremonial laws:a clean animal; clean persons. dexterously performed; adroit:a clean serve in tennis. (of a jump over an obstacle) made without touching the obstacle. Slang Termshaving no direct associations, business interests, etc., that could prejudice one's official acts or decisions:The new governor is clean because he's sold his construction business and doesn't owe political favors to anyone. Slang Termswithout money or funds. Wine(of wine) having a taste that is unusually refreshing and smooth. Nautical, Naval Terms(of an anchorage, harbor, etc.) free of obstructions or hazards (opposed to foul). Veterinary Diseases(of the legs of a horse) free from injury or blemish, as capped hocks, splints, or scars. Banking, Business[Foreign Exchange.](of currency floats) not influenced by exchange-rate manipulation (opposed to dirty). adv. in a clean manner; cleanly:Nobody wants to box with him because he doesn't fight clean. so as to be clean:This shirt will never wash clean. Informal Termswholly; completely; quite:The sharp carving knife sliced clean through the roast. In a year, he had gone clean through his inheritance. clean full, [Naut.] Nautical(of a sail or sails) filled with wind; rap full. Nautical(of a sailing vessel) with all sails full of wind; rap full. come clean, [Slang.]to tell the truth, esp. to admit one's guilt. v.t. to make clean:Clean those dirty shoes. to remove or consume the contents of; empty; clear:She sat down to dinner ravenous and within five minutes had cleaned her plate. to dry-clean. to remove the entrails and other inedible parts from (poultry, fish, etc.); dress. Slang Termsto take away or win all or almost all the money or possessions of (often fol. by out):The cards were marked and I got cleaned. Metallurgyto remove the seams from (a casting) by filing or grinding. Stamps[Philately.]to delete intentionally the cancellation from (a postage or revenue stamp). v.i. to perform or undergo a process of cleaning:This kind of fabric cleans easily. Detergents clean better than most soaps. to get rid of dirt, soil, etc. (often fol. by up):to spend the morning cleaning. Idioms clean house, to wipe out corruption, inefficiency, etc., as in an organization:It's time for the city government to clean house. clean out: to empty in order to straighten or clean. to use up; exhaust:He had cleaned out his savings. Informal Termsto drive out by force. to empty or rid (a place) of occupants, contents, etc.:Eager customers cleaned out the store on the first day of the sale. The thief cleaned out the safe. [Slang.]to cause to lose all or almost all one's money or possessions. clean up: to wash or tidy up. to rid of undesirable persons or features:They cleaned up the local bars. to put an end to; finish:to clean up yesterday's chores. Informal Termsto make a large profit:They cleaned up in the stock market. Idioms clean up one's act. See act (def. 10). Middle English clene, Old English clǣne pure, clear, cognate with Old High German kleini (German klein small) bef. 900 clean´ness, n. 1. neat, immaculate. Clean, clear, pure refer to freedom from soiling, flaw, stain, or mixture. Clean refers esp. to freedom from soiling:a clean shirt.Clear refers particularly to freedom from flaw or blemish:a clear pane of glass.Pure refers esp. to freedom from mixture or stain:a pure metal; not diluted but pure and full strength. 7. legible. 11. unsullied, chaste, virtuous. 19. unblemished, flawless. 34. entirely, thoroughly. 37. scour, scrub, sweep, brush, wipe, mop, dust, wash, rinse, lave, deterge, purify, clear; decontaminate. Clean, cleanse refer to removing dirt or impurities. To clean is the general word with no implication of method or means:to clean windows, a kitchen, streets.Cleanse is esp. used of thorough cleaning by chemical or other technical process; figuratively it applies to moral or spiritual purification:to cleanse parts of machinery; to cleanse one's soul of guilt. 1. dirty. 17. contaminated, radioactive. 37. soil. Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: clean /kli:n/ adj without dirt or other impurities; unsoiled without anything in it or on it: a clean page recently washed; fresh without extraneous or foreign materials without defect, difficulties, or problems (of an industrial process, energy source, etc) causing little or no harm to the environment Compare dirty (of a nuclear weapon) producing little or no radioactive fallout or contamination (of a wound, etc) having no pus or other sign of infection pure; morally sound without objectionable language or obscenity thorough or complete: a clean break dexterous or adroit: a clean throw played fairly and without fouls simple in design: a ship's clean lines causing little turbulence; streamlined honourable or respectable habitually neat (esp of a driving licence) showing or having no record of offences slang innocent; not guilty not carrying illegal drugs, weapons, etc not or no longer addicted to (esp illegal) drugsclean sweep ⇒ See sweep vb to make or become free of dirt, filth, etc: the stove cleans easily (transitive) to remove in making clean: to clean marks off the wall (transitive) to prepare (fish, poultry, etc) for cooking: to clean a chicken adv in a clean way; cleanly not standard (intensifier): clean forgotten, clean deadclean bowled ⇒ bowled by a ball that breaks the wicket without hitting the batter or his or her batcome clean ⇒ informal to make a revelation or confession n the act or an instance of cleaning: he gave his shoes a cleanEtymology: Old English clǣne; related to Old Frisian klēne small, neat, Old High German kleini'cleanable adj 'cleanness n Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Financial, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia.Related to clean: clean PC (klēn)adj. clean·er, clean·est 1. Free from dirt, stain, or impurities; unsoiled: a clean kitchen floor; clean clothes.2. a. Free from foreign matter or pollution; unadulterated: clean air; clean drinking water.b. Not infected: a clean wound.3. a. Producing relatively little pollution: a clean fuel; a cleaner, more efficient engine.b. Producing relatively little radioactive fallout or contamination: a clean nuclear bomb.4. Having no imperfections or blemishes; regular or even: a clean edge; a smooth, clean joint.5. a. Not ornate or intricate; spare: "the clean lines and exquisite proportions of early modernism" (Judith Thurman).b. Sharply defined; clear-cut: a clean outline against the sky.6. Free from clumsiness; deft; adroit: a clean throw.7. Devoid of restrictions or encumbrances: a clean bill of health.8. Thorough; complete: a clean getaway.9. Having few alterations or corrections; legible: clean manuscript.11. a. Morally pure; virtuous: led a clean life.b. Having no marks of discredit or offense: a clean voting record.12. Fit for all readers, listeners, or audiences; not ribald or obscene: a clean joke.13. Honest or fair: a clean fighter; a clean competition.14. Slang a. Not carrying concealed weapons or drugs.b. Innocent of a suspected crime.15. Informal a. Free from narcotics addiction.b. Showing no evidence of using banned or performance-enhancing substances: proven to be clean before the race.adv. cleaner, cleanest 1. So as to be unsoiled: wash the dishes clean.2. In a fair manner: played the game clean.3. In a clean or nonpolluting manner: a fuel that burns clean.4. Informal Entirely; wholly: clean forgot the appointment.v. cleaned, clean·ing, cleans v.tr.1. To rid of dirt, rubbish, or impurities: clean a room; clean a suit.2. To get rid of (impurities or dirt, for example); remove: cleaned up the trash; cleaned off the stains.3. To prepare (fowl or other food) for cooking, as by removing the entrails or fat.4. To remove the contents from; empty: cleaned my plate.5. Sports To lift (a barbell) from the floor to the shoulders in one motion.v.intr. To undergo or perform an act of cleaning.Phrasal Verbs: clean out1. To rid of dirt, rubbish, or impurities.2. To empty of contents or occupants.3. Informal To drive or force out: cleaned out the incompetent workers.4. Slang To deprive completely of money or material wealth: The robbery cleaned us out. clean up1. To make clean or orderly.2. To make oneself clean, neat, or presentable.3. To dispose of; settle: cleaned up the unpaid bills.4. Slang To make a large profit, often in a short period of time: cleaned up during the bull market.Idiom: clean house Slang To eliminate or discard what is undesirable: The scandal forced the company to clean house.[Middle English clene, from Old English clǣne.]American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (kli:n) adj1. without dirt or other impurities; unsoiled2. without anything in it or on it: a clean page. 3. recently washed; fresh4. without extraneous or foreign materials5. without defect, difficulties, or problems: a clean test flight. 6. (Nuclear Physics) a. (of a nuclear weapon) producing little or no radioactive fallout or contaminationb. uncontaminated. Compare dirty117. (Medicine) (of a wound, etc) having no pus or other sign of infection9. without objectionable language or obscenity: a clean joke. 10. (Printing, Lithography & Bookbinding) (of printer's proofs, etc) relatively free from errors; easily readable: clean copy. 11. thorough or complete: a clean break. 12. dexterous or adroit: a clean throw. 13. (General Sporting Terms) sport played fairly and without fouls14. simple in design: a ship's clean lines. 15. (Aeronautics) aeronautics causing little turbulence; streamlined16. (Aeronautics) (of an aircraft) having no projections, such as rockets, flaps, etc, into the airstream17. honourable or respectable19. (esp of a driving licence) showing or having no record of offences20. slang b. not carrying illegal drugs, weapons, etc21. (Nautical Terms) nautical (of a vessel)a. having its bottom cleanb. having a satisfactory bill of health22. (Bible) Old Testament a. (of persons) free from ceremonial defilementb. (of animals, birds, and fish) lawful to eat23. (Bible) New Testament morally and spiritually pure24. clean sweep See sweep33vb25. to make or become free of dirt, filth, etc: the stove cleans easily. 26. (tr) to remove in making clean: to clean marks off the wall. 27. (Cookery) (tr) to prepare (fish, poultry, etc) for cooking: to clean a chicken. adv28. in a clean way; cleanly29. not standard (intensifier): clean forgotten; clean dead. 30. (Cricket) clean bowled cricket bowled by a ball that breaks the wicket without hitting the batsman or his bat31. come clean informal to make a revelation or confessionnthe act or an instance of cleaning: he gave his shoes a clean. [Old English clǣne; related to Old Frisian klēne small, neat, Old High German kleini]Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (klin) adj.andadv. clean•er, clean•est, 1. free from dirt; not soiled or stained: a clean dress. 2. free from foreign or extraneous matter; pure: clean sound. 3. free from pollution or pollutants: clean air; clean energy. 4. characterized by a fresh, wholesome quality. 5. having few or no corrections; easily readable: The printer submitted clean proofs. 6. free from roughness or irregularity: He made a clean cut with a razor. 7. not ornate; gracefully spare; trim: the clean lines of a ship. 8. complete; unqualified: a clean break with tradition. 9. morally pure; innocent; honorable: to lead a clean life. 10. showing good sportsmanship; fair: a clean fighter. 11. inoffensive in language or content; without obscenity. 12. (of a document, record, etc.) bearing no marks of discreditable or unlawful conduct; listing no offenses. 13. Slang. a. innocent of any crime. b. not having a criminal record. c. carrying or containing no evidence of unlawful activity or intent. 14. b. (of a nuclear weapon) producing little or no radioactive fallout. 15. (of a document or financial instrument) free from qualifications or restrictions: a clean bill of lading. 16. free from defects or flaws: a clean diamond. 17. free from encumbrances or obstructions. 18. made without any difficulty or interference: a clean getaway. 19. having no blemish so as to make impure according to dietary or ritual law. 20. dexterously performed: a clean serve in tennis. 21. Slang. without money or funds. adv. 22. in a clean manner; cleanly. 23. so as to be clean: This shirt will never wash clean. 24. Informal. wholly; completely; quite: The bullet passed clean through the wall. v.t. 25. to make clean or clear. 27. to remove the entrails and other inedible parts from (poultry, fish, etc.); dress. 28. Slang. to take away or win all or almost all the money or possessions of: That last bet cleaned me out. v.i. 29. to perform or undergo a process of cleaning. 30. clean out, a. to empty in order to clean. b. to empty; deplete; evacuate. 31. clean up, b. to rid of undesirable persons or features. c. to make a large profit. Idioms: come clean, Slang. to tell the truth, esp. to admit one's guilt. [before 900; Middle English clene, Old English clǣne pure, clear, c. Old Saxon klēni, cleini, Old High German kleini] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.Past participle: cleanedGerund: cleaningImperativePresentPreteritePresent ContinuousPresent PerfectPast ContinuousPast PerfectFutureFuture PerfectFuture ContinuousPresent Perfect ContinuousFuture Perfect ContinuousPast Perfect ContinuousConditionalPast ConditionalCollins English Verb Tables © HarperCollins Publishers 2011 Noun1.clean - a weightlift in which the barbell is lifted to shoulder height and then jerked overheadjerk - raising a weight from shoulder height to above the head by straightening the armsVerb1.clean - make clean by removing dirt, filth, or unwanted substances from; "Clean the stove!"; "The dentist cleaned my teeth"disinfect - destroy microorganisms or pathogens by cleansing; "disinfect a wound"alter, change, modify - cause to change; make different; cause a transformation; "The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"; "The discussion has changed my thinking about the issue"brush - clean with a brush; "She brushed the suit before hanging it back into the closet"dust - remove the dust from; "dust the cabinets"bream - clean (a ship's bottom) with heatsteam clean, steam - clean by means of steaming; "steam-clean the upholstered sofa"preen, plume - clean with one's bill; "The birds preened"sweep - clean by sweeping; "Please sweep the floor"pipe-clay - whiten or clean with pipe-clay; "pipe-clay leather"scavenge - clean refuse from; "Scavenge a street"dry clean - clean with chemical agentslaunder, wash - cleanse with a cleaning agent, such as soap, and water; "Wash the towels, please!"clean - be cleanable; "This stove cleans easily"2.clean - remove unwanted substances from, such as feathers or pits; "Clean the turkey"remove, take away, withdraw, take - remove something concrete, as by lifting, pushing, or taking off, or remove something abstract; "remove a threat"; "remove a wrapper"; "Remove the dirty dishes from the table"; "take the gun from your pocket"; "This machine withdraws heat from the environment"3.clean - clean and tidy up the house; "She housecleans every week"clean - remove while making clean; "Clean the spots off the rug"clean, make clean - make clean by removing dirt, filth, or unwanted substances from; "Clean the stove!"; "The dentist cleaned my teeth"G.I., GI - clean in preparation for inspection; "the soldiers GIed the barracks"spring-clean - thoroughly clean the entire house, often done only once a year; "she started spring-cleaning on April 1"4.clean - clean one's body or parts thereof, as by washing; "clean up before you see your grandparents"; "clean your fingernails before dinner"bathe - cleanse the entire body; "bathe daily"wash - to cleanse (itself or another animal) by licking; "The cat washes several times a day"lave, wash - cleanse (one's body) with soap and watersoap, lather - rub soap all over, usually with the purpose of cleaningbath, bathe - clean one's body by immersion into water; "The child should bathe every day"douche - direct a spray of water into a bodily cavity, for cleaningneaten, groom - care for one's external appearance; "He is always well-groomed"floss - use dental floss to clean; "floss your teeth after every meal"decontaminate - rid of contamination; "The soil around the housing development had to be decontaminated by the city"5.clean - be cleanable; "This stove cleans easily"clean, make clean - make clean by removing dirt, filth, or unwanted substances from; "Clean the stove!"; "The dentist cleaned my teeth"be - have the quality of being; (copula, used with an adjective or a predicate noun); "John is rich"; "This is not a good answer"6.clean - deprive wholly of money in a gambling game, robbery, etc.; "The other players cleaned him completely"deprive, divest, strip - take away possessions from someone; "The Nazis stripped the Jews of all their assets"7.clean - remove all contents or possession from, or empty completely; "The boys cleaned the sandwich platters"; "The trees were cleaned of apples by the storm"remove, take away, withdraw, take - remove something concrete, as by lifting, pushing, or taking off, or remove something abstract; "remove a threat"; "remove a wrapper"; "Remove the dirty dishes from the table"; "take the gun from your pocket"; "This machine withdraws heat from the environment"8.clean - remove while making clean; "Clean the spots off the rug"remove, take away, withdraw, take - remove something concrete, as by lifting, pushing, or taking off, or remove something abstract; "remove a threat"; "remove a wrapper"; "Remove the dirty dishes from the table"; "take the gun from your pocket"; "This machine withdraws heat from the environment"9.clean - remove unwanted substances fromchemical science, chemistry - the science of matter; the branch of the natural sciences dealing with the composition of substances and their properties and reactionsremove, take away, withdraw, take - remove something concrete, as by lifting, pushing, or taking off, or remove something abstract; "remove a threat"; "remove a wrapper"; "Remove the dirty dishes from the table"; "take the gun from your pocket"; "This machine withdraws heat from the environment"10.clean - remove shells or husks from; "clean grain before milling it"remove, take away, withdraw, take - remove something concrete, as by lifting, pushing, or taking off, or remove something abstract; "remove a threat"; "remove a wrapper"; "Remove the dirty dishes from the table"; "take the gun from your pocket"; "This machine withdraws heat from the environment"Adj.1.clean - free from dirt or impurities; or having clean habits; "children with clean shining faces"; "clean white shirts"; "clean dishes"; "a spotlessly clean house"; "cats are clean animals"antiseptic - thoroughly clean and free of or destructive to disease-causing organisms; "doctors in antiseptic green coats"; "the antiseptic effect of alcohol"; "it is said that marjoram has antiseptic qualities"tidy - marked by order and cleanliness in appearance or habits; "a tidy person"; "a tidy house"; "a tidy mind"dirty, soiled, unclean - soiled or likely to soil with dirt or grime; "dirty unswept sidewalks"; "a child in dirty overalls"; "dirty slums"; "piles of dirty dishes"; "put his dirty feet on the clean sheet"; "wore an unclean shirt"; "mining is a dirty job"; "Cinderella did the dirty work while her sisters preened themselves"2.clean - free of restrictions or qualifications; "a clean bill of health"; "a clear winner"unqualified - not limited or restricted; "an unqualified denial"3.clean - (of sound or color) free from anything that dulls or dims; "efforts to obtain a clean bass in orchestral recordings"; "clear laughter like a waterfall"; "clear reds and blues"; "a light lilting voice like a silver bell"pure - free of extraneous elements of any kind; "pure air and water"; "pure gold"; "pure primary colors"; "the violin's pure and lovely song"; "pure tones"; "pure oxygen"4.clean - free from impurities; "clean water"; "fresh air"pure - free of extraneous elements of any kind; "pure air and water"; "pure gold"; "pure primary colors"; "the violin's pure and lovely song"; "pure tones"; "pure oxygen"5.clean - (of a record) having no marks of discredit or offense; "a clean voting record"; "a clean driver's license"perfect - being complete of its kind and without defect or blemish; "a perfect circle"; "a perfect reproduction"; "perfect happiness"; "perfect manners"; "a perfect specimen"; "a perfect day"6.clean - ritually clean or purefaith, religion, religious belief - a strong belief in a supernatural power or powers that control human destiny; "he lost his faith but not his morality"clean - free from dirt or impurities; or having clean habits; "children with clean shining faces"; "clean white shirts"; "clean dishes"; "a spotlessly clean house"; "cats are clean animals"pure - free of extraneous elements of any kind; "pure air and water"; "pure gold"; "pure primary colors"; "the violin's pure and lovely song"; "pure tones"; "pure oxygen"unclean, impure - having a physical or moral blemish so as to make impure according to dietary or ceremonial laws; "unclean meat"; "and the swine...is unclean to you"-Leviticus 11:37.clean - not spreading pollution or contamination; especially radioactive contamination; "a clean fuel"; "cleaner and more efficient engines"; "the tactical bomb is reasonably clean"contaminating, dirty - spreading pollution or contamination; especially radioactive contamination; "the air near the foundry was always dirty"; "a dirty bomb releases enormous amounts of long-lived radioactive fallout"8.clean - (of behavior or especially language) free from objectionable elements; fit for all observers; "good clean fun"; "a clean joke"decent - conforming to conventions of sexual behavior; "speech in this circle, if not always decent, never became lewd"- George Santayanadirty - (of behavior or especially language) characterized by obscenity or indecency; "dirty words"; "a dirty old man"; "dirty books and movies"; "boys telling dirty jokes"; "has a dirty mouth"9.clean - free from sepsis or infection; "a clean (or uninfected) wound"antiseptic - thoroughly clean and free of or destructive to disease-causing organisms; "doctors in antiseptic green coats"; "the antiseptic effect of alcohol"; "it is said that marjoram has antiseptic qualities"10.clean - morally pure; "led a clean life"moral - concerned with principles of right and wrong or conforming to standards of behavior and character based on those principles; "moral sense"; "a moral scrutiny"; "a moral lesson"; "a moral quandary"; "moral convictions"; "a moral life"11.clean - (of a manuscript) having few alterations or corrections; "fair copy"; "a clean manuscript"legible - (of handwriting, print, etc.) capable of being read or deciphered; "legible handwriting"12.clean - (of a surface) not written or printed on; "blank pages"; "fill in the blank spaces"; "a clean page"; "wide white margins"empty - holding or containing nothing; "an empty glass"; "an empty room"; "full of empty seats"; "empty hours"13.clean - exhibiting or calling for sportsmanship or fair play; "a clean fight"; "a sporting solution of the disagreement"; "sportsmanlike conduct"sporting, sportsmanlike, sportyfair, just - free from favoritism or self-interest or bias or deception; conforming with established standards or rules; "a fair referee"; "fair deal"; "on a fair footing"; "a fair fight"; "by fair means or foul"14.clean - without difficulties or problems; "a clean test flight"easy - posing no difficulty; requiring little effort; "an easy job"; "an easy problem"; "an easy victory"; "the house is easy to heat"; "satisfied with easy answers"; "took the easy way out of his dilemma"15.clean - thorough and without qualification; "a clean getaway"; "a clean sweep"; "a clean break"complete - having every necessary or normal part or component or step; "a complete meal"; "a complete wardrobe"; "a complete set of the Britannica"; "a complete set of china"; "a complete defeat"; "a complete accounting"16.clean - not carrying concealed weaponsunarmed - (used of persons or the military) not having or using arms; "went alone and unarmed"; "unarmed peasants were shot down"; "unarmed vehicles"17.clean - free from clumsiness; precisely or deftly executed; "he landed a clean left on his opponent's cheek"; "a clean throw"; "the neat exactness of the surgeon's knife"adroit - quick or skillful or adept in action or thought; "an exceptionally adroit pianist"; "an adroit technician"; "his adroit replies to hecklers won him many followers"; "an adroit negotiator"18.clean - free of drugs; "after a long dependency on heroin she has been clean for 4 years"unaddicted - not addictedAdv.1.clean - completely; used as intensifiers; "clean forgot the appointment"; "I'm plumb (or plum) tuckered out"2.clean - in conformity with the rules or laws and without fraud or cheating; "they played fairly"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.adjective1. hygienic, natural, fresh, sterile, pure, purified, antiseptic, sterilized, unadulterated, uncontaminated, unpolluted, decontaminated Disease is not a problem because clean water is available. hygienic infected, contaminated, polluted, adulterated2. spotless, fresh, washed, immaculate, laundered, impeccable, flawless, sanitary, faultless, squeaky-clean, hygienic, unblemished, unsullied, unstained, unsoiled, unspotted He wore his cleanest slacks and a navy blazer. spotless soiled, dirty, filthy, sullied, unwashed, mucky, scuzzy (slang, chiefly U.S.), skanky (slang)3. moral, good, pure, decent, innocent, respectable, upright, honourable, impeccable, exemplary, virtuous, chaste, undefiled I want to live a clean life, a life without sin. moral indecent, immoral, impure, dishonourable, unchaste5. neat, simple, elegant, trim, delicate, tidy, graceful, uncluttered I admire the clean lines of Shaker furniture. neat disorderly, chaotic, untidy, shambolic (informal), disorganized, higgledy-piggledy (informal)verb1. cleanse, wash, bath, sweep, dust, wipe, vacuum, scrub, sponge, rinse, mop, launder, scour, purify, do up, swab, disinfect, de