DEFINITION OF THE WORD LIGHT

Light (lit), n. [ME. liht; AS. leoht; akin to G. licht; IE. base *leuq-, to shine, bright, seen also in L. lucere, to shine, lux, lumen. light (cf. LUCID, LUMINOUS), luna, moon (cf. LUNAR). etc.]. 1. a) that which makes it possible to see: opposed to darkness; form of radiant energy that acts upon the retina of the eye, optic nerve, etc., making sight possible: this energy is transmitted at a velocity of about 186,000 miles per second by wavelike or vibrational motion. b) a form of radiant energy similar to this, but not acting of the normal retina, as ultraviolet and infrared radiation. 2. the rate of flow of light radiation with respect to the sense of sight: it is measured in lumen. 3. the sensation that light stimulates in the organs of sight. 4. brightness; illumination: usually with reference to a particular case. 5. the thing from which light comes; source of light, as a lamp, the sun, etc. 6. the light from the sun; daylight or dawn. 7. a thing by means of which something can be started burning: as, a light for a cigarette. 8. the means by which light is let in; window or windowpane. 9. knowledge; enlightenment; mental illumination: as, early writings shed light on our past. 10. public knowledge or view: as, every day new facts are brought to light. 11. the way in which something is seen; appearance due to what is presented to view; aspect: as, he put the matter in an unfavorable light. 12. facial expression showing a mental or emotional state: as, a light of recognition came into his eyes. 13. a person whose brilliant record makes him an example for others; outstanding figure: as, a shining light. 14. in the fine arts, a) the quality suggestive of light. b) the part of a picture upon which light is represented as falling. adj. [ME. liht; AS. leoht], 1. having light; not dark; bright. 2. pale in color; whitish; fair. adv. [<the adj.], palely: as, the ribbon is light blue. v.t. [LIGHTED (-id) or LIT (lit), LIGHTING], 1. to set on fire: ignite: as, let’s light a bonfire. 2. to cause to give off light: as, she lit the lamp. 3. to give light to; furnish with light: as, lamps light the streets. 4. to brighten; animate. 5. to show the way to by or as by giving light: as, the beacon lighted the planes safely to the airport. v.i. 1. to catch fire: as, the fuse lighted at once. 2. to be lighted; brighten (usually with up). according to one’s lights, as one’s opinions, information, or abilities may direct. bring to light, to reveal; disclose. come to light, to be revealed or disclosed. in the light of, with knowledge of; considering. light up, 1. to make or become light. 2. to make or become bright, cheerful, etc. 3. [Colloq.], to begin smoking (a cigar, etc.). see the light (of day), 1. to come into existence. 2. to come to public view. 3. to understand. shed (or throw) light on, to give facts about; clarify. stand in one’s own light, to harm oneself or one’s reputation by acting foolishly, thoughtlessly, or unwisely. strike a light, to make a flame, as with a match.

light (lit). adj. [ME. liht; AS. leoht (< *Gmc. linxta); akin to G. leicht, not heavy, not difficult; IE. base *lengwh-to < *legwh-, light in weight or motion (LIGHTS, LUNG). 1. having little weight; not heavy. 2. having little weight for its size; of low specific gravity. 3. below the usual or defined weight: as, light coin. 4. less than usual or normal in amount, extent, intensity, force, etc.; specifically, a) falling or striking with little force or impact: as, a light blow. b) of less than the usual quantity or density: as, light vote, a light rain. c) not thick, coarse, or massive; delicate and graceful in structure: as, light
tracery, *light* architecture.  
d) not violent or intense; mild: as a *light* wind.  
e) soft, muted, or muffled: as, a *light* sound.  
f) not prolonged or intense: as, *light* applause.  
5. of little importance; not serious or profound: as *light* conversation.  
6. easy to bear; not burdensome: as, a *light* tax.  
7. easy to do; not difficult: as, *light* work.  
8. not burdened with grief or sorrow; gay; happy; buoyant: as, *light* spirits.  
9. flighty; frivolous; fickle; capricious.  
10. loose in morals: wanton.  
11. dizzy; giddy.  
14. characterized by qualities suggestive of little weight; not dense, hard, full, etc.; specifically,  
a) not as full as usual; moderate: as, a *light* meal.  
b) easy to digest.  
c) well leavened; soft and spongy: as, a *light* cake.  
d) loose in consistency; easily crumbled; porous: as, *light* sand.  
15. moving with ease and nimbleness: as, she is *light* on her feet.  
16. carrying little weight: as, we shall travel *light*.  
17. unstressed or slightly stressed: said of a syllable in phonetics, prosody, etc.  
18. having light weapons, armor, equipment, etc.: as, a *light* tank.  
19. in meteorology, designating a condition (*light* air) in which the speed of the wind is from 1 to 3 miles per hour.  
adv. lightly.  
*v.i.* [LIGHTED (-id) or LIT (lit), LIGHTING], [ME. lihten; AS. lihtan, lyhtan; also aphetic for alight],  
1. [Rare], to get down from a horse or vehicle; dismount; alight.  
2. come to rest after traveling through the air: as, we waited for the ducks to *light*.  
3. to come by chance; happen (with on or upon).  
4. to fall or strike suddenly, as a blow.  

- **light in the head**, 1. dizzy. 2. simple; foolish.  
- **light into**, [Slang], 1. to attack. 2. to scold; berate.  
- **light out**, [Slang], to depart suddenly.  
- **make light of**, to treat as trifling or unimportant; pay little or no attention to.