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dictionary

of the
English
Language



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length  (lĕŋkth, lĕngth, lĕnth)

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n.

1. The state, quality, or fact of being long. See Usage Note at [strength](#).
2. The measurement of the extent of something along its greatest dimension: *the length of the boat*.
3. A piece, often of a standard size, that is normally measured along its greatest dimension: *a length of cloth*.
4. A measure used as a unit to estimate distances: *won the race by a length*.
5. Extent or distance from beginning to end: *the length of a novel; the length of a journey*.
6. The amount of time between specified moments; the duration: *the length of a meeting*.
7. often **lengths** Extent or degree to which an action or policy is carried: *went to great lengths to prove his point*.
8. *Linguistics*
 - a. The duration of a vowel.
 - b. The duration of a syllable.
9. The vertical extent of a garment. Often used in combination: *knee-length; floor-length*.

Idiom:

at length

1. After some time; eventually: *At length we arrived at our destination*.
2. For a considerable time; fully: *spoke at length about the court ruling*.

[Middle English, from Old English *lengthu*; see ~~del~~¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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