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face  (fās)

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n.

1.

a. The surface of the front of the head from the top of the forehead to the base of the chin and from ear to ear.

b. A person: *We saw many new faces on the first day of classes.*

2. A person's countenance: *a happy face.*

3. A contorted facial expression; a grimace: *made a face at the prospect of eating lemons.*

4.

a. A countenance of a certain complexion or form. Used in combination: *babyface*; *frogface*.

b. A person having such a countenance. Used in combination: *paleface*.

5.

a. Facial makeup: *put one's face on.*

b. Facial makeup of a certain color, usually worn for the purpose of impersonating or mocking people of a particular racial or ethnic group. Used in combination: *applied blackface*.

c. Assumed characteristics, such as clothing or behavior, intended to impersonate or mock people of a particular racial or ethnic group. Used in combination: *dressing up in yellowface*.

6. Outward appearance: *the modern face of the city.*

7.

a. Value or standing in the eyes of others; prestige: *did their best to save face after they were shown to be wrong; did not want to lose face by being unable to live up to his reputation.*

b. Self-assurance; confidence: *The team managed to maintain a firm face even in times of great adversity.*

8. Effrontery; impudence: *had the face to question my judgment.*

9. The most significant or prominent surface of an object, especially:

a. The surface presented to view; the front.

b. A façade.

c. Outer surface: *the face of the earth.*

d. A marked side: *the face of a clock; the face of a playing card.*

e. The right side, as of fabric.

f. An exposed, often precipitous surface of rock.

10. A planar surface of a geometric solid.

11. Any of the surfaces of a rock or crystal.

12. The end, as of a mine or tunnel, at which work is advancing.

13. The appearance and geologic surface features of an area of land; topography.

14. *Printing*

a. A typeface or range of typefaces.

b. The raised printing surface of a piece of type.

v. faced, fac-ing, fac-es

v.tr.

1. To occupy a position with the face toward: *stood and faced the audience.*

2. To front on: *a window that faces the south.*

3.

a. To meet or confront with self-assurance: *How can I face your parents when they know that I've let them down?*

b. To acknowledge and accept or deal with: *had to face the facts; must be willing to face our problems.* See Synonyms at [defy](#).

4.

- a. To be certain to encounter; have in store: *An unskilled youth faces a difficult life.*
b. To bring or to be brought face to face with: "*The prospect of military conflict ... faced us with nightmarish choices*" (Henry A. Kissinger).
5. To cause (troops) to change direction by giving a command.
6. *Games* To turn (a playing card) so that the face is up.
7. To furnish with a surface or cover of a different material: *bronze that is faced with gold foil.*
8. To line or trim the edge of, especially with contrasting material: *face a hem with lace.*
9. To treat the surface of so as to smooth.

v.intr.

1. To be turned or placed with the front toward a specified direction.
2. To turn the face in a specified direction.

Phrasal Verbs:

face down

To attain mastery over or overcome by confronting in a resolute, determined manner: *face down an opponent in a debate; faced the enemy down.*

face off

1. *Sports* To stand opposite an opponent in ice hockey, lacrosse, and other games and attempt to gain control of a puck or ball released by an official at the start of play.
2. To compete: *Two longtime opponents faced off in a bitter election.*

face up

To confront an unpleasant situation with resolution and assurance: *had to face up or get out; finally faced up to the problem.*

Idioms:

face the music

To accept the unpleasant consequences, especially of one's own actions.

in the face/teeth of

In opposition to or defiance of.

on the face of it

From appearances alone; apparently: *On the face of it, the problem seems minor.*

show (one's) face

To make an appearance: *Don't show your face on my property again.*

to (one's) face

In the view or hearing of: *insulted me to my face.*

[Middle English, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin **facia*, from Latin *faciēs*; see **dhē-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

face **a·ble** *adj.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

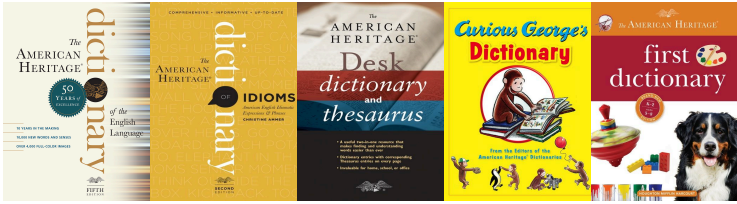
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