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drop  (drɒp)

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n.

1.

- a.** A small amount of a liquid, drawn into a roughly spherical mass by surface tension.
- b.** The quantity of liquid contained in such a mass, especially when measured out by a dropper.
- c. drops** Liquid medicine administered in drops.
- d.** A small quantity of a liquid: *There isn't a drop of milk left.*
- e. Informal** An alcoholic drink: *a man known to have a drop now and then.*

2. A trace or hint: *not a drop of pity.*

3.

- a.** Something, such as an earring, shaped or hanging like a drop.
- b.** A small globular piece of hard candy.
- 4.** The act of falling; descent: *the drop of the curtain; the sun's drop toward the horizon.*
- 5.** A swift decline or decrease, as in quality, quantity, or intensity: *a drop in sales.*

6.

- a.** The vertical distance from a higher to a lower level: *The cliff has a drop of 50 feet.*
- b.** The distance through which something falls or drops.
- 7.** A sheer incline, such as the face of a cliff: *Stay clear of the drop.*

8.

- a.** A descent or delivery of something by parachute: *made a drop of supplies to the explorers.*
- b.** Personnel and equipment landed by means of parachute.
- 9.** Something, such as a trapdoor on a gallows, that is arranged to fall or be lowered.

10. A drop curtain.

11. A slot through which something is deposited in a receptacle.

12. A central place or establishment where something, such as mail, is brought and subsequently distributed.

13.

a. A predetermined location for the deposit and subsequent removal of secret communications or illicit goods, such as drugs.

b. The act of depositing such communications or materials.

14. Electronics A connection made available for an input or output unit on a transmission line.

v. dropped, drop·ping, drops

v.intr.

1. To fall in drops: *rain dropping from an umbrella.*

2. To fall from a higher to a lower place or position: *The plate dropped onto the floor.*

3. To become less, as in number, intensity, or volume: *The temperature dropped below 0.*

4. To move or descend from one height or level to another: *He dropped into a crouch. The sun dropped below the horizon.*

5. To fall or sink into a state of exhaustion or death.

6. To pass or slip into a specified state or condition: *dropped into a doze; drop out of sight.*

7. Sports To fall or roll into a basket or hole. Used of a ball.

v.tr.

1. To let fall by releasing hold of: *I dropped the towel onto the floor.*

2. To let fall in drops: *drop the medicine into the ear.*

3. To cause to become less; reduce: *drop the rate of production.*

4. To cause to fall, as by hitting or shooting: *dropped him with a left hook.*

5. *Sports* To hurl or strike (a ball) into a basket or hole.
6. To give birth to. Used of animals.
7. To say or offer casually: *drop a hint; drop a name*.
8. To write at one's leisure: *drop me a note*.
9. To cease consideration or treatment of: *dropped the matter altogether*.
10. To terminate an association or a relationship with: *an actor who was dropped by the talent agency*.
11. To leave unfinished: *drop everything and help*.
12. To leave out (a letter, for example) in speaking or writing.
13. To leave or set down at a particular place; unload: *I dropped the book in your office*.
14. *Informal* To spend, especially lavishly or rashly: *"dropping \$50,000 in an Atlantic City casino" (George F. Will)*.
15. To airdrop (supplies, for example).
16. To lower the level of (the voice).
17. To lose (a game or contest, for example).
18. *Slang* To take, as a drug, by mouth: *drop acid*.

Phrasal Verbs:

drop back

Football To back away from the line of scrimmage.

drop behind

To fall behind: *dropped behind the rest of the class during her illness*.

drop by

To stop in for a short visit.

drop off

1. To fall asleep.
2. To decrease: *Sales dropped off in the fourth quarter*.

drop out

1. To withdraw from participation, as in a game, club, or school.
2. To withdraw from established society, especially because of disillusion with conventional values.

drop over

To stop in for a short visit.

Idioms:

at the drop of a hat

1. Immediately; without delay: *would sign the contract at the drop of a hat*.
2. With only the slightest provocation: *ready to argue at the drop of a hat*.

drop a dime *Slang*

To make a telephone call, especially to the police to inform on or betray someone.

drop in the bucket

A small, inadequate quantity.

drop the ball

To make a mistake or fail to do something important.

get/have the drop on

To achieve a distinct advantage over.

[Middle English *droppe*, from Old English *dropa*; see **dhreu-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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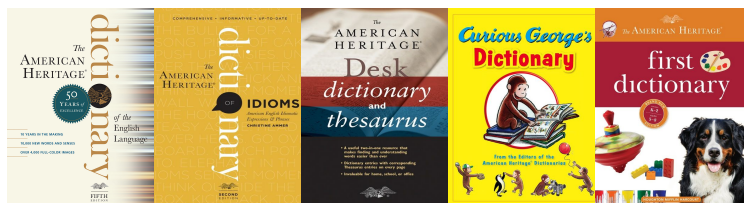
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