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cas·cade  (kās-kād)

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n.

1. A waterfall or a series of small waterfalls over steep rocks.
2. Something, such as lace, thought to resemble a waterfall or series of small waterfalls, especially an arrangement or fall of material.
3. A heavy, uncontrolled outpouring: *a cascade of abusive comments.*
4.
 - a. A succession of stages, processes, operations, or units.
 - b. *Electronics* A series of components or networks, the output of each of which serves as the input for the next.
 - c. A chemical or physiological process that occurs in successive stages, each of which is dependent on the preceding one, and often producing a cumulative effect: *an enzymatic cascade.*

v. **cas·cad·ed**, **cas·cad·ing**, **cas·cades**

v.intr.

1. To fall in or as if in a cascade: "*Morning glory vines ... cascaded over old-fashioned bamboo lattices*" (Mary Yukari Waters).
2. To occur in a sequence or successive stages: *circumstances that cascaded into a crisis.*

v.tr.

1. To cause to fall in or as if in a cascade: *cascaded the ingredients into the bowl.*
2. To cause to occur in a sequence or successive stages: *wholesale price reductions that are cascaded down to the consumer.*

[French, from Italian *cascata*, from *cascare*, to fall, from Vulgar Latin **casicāre*, from Latin *cadere*; see **kad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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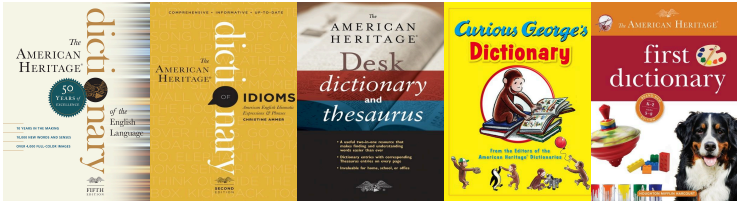
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