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heav·y  (hěv ē)

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adj. **heav·i·er, heav·i·est**

1. Having relatively great weight: *a heavy load.*
2. Having relatively high density; having a high specific gravity.
3.
 - a. Large, as in number or quantity: *a heavy turnout; heavy casualties.*
 - b. Large in yield or output: *heavy rainfall.*
4. Of great intensity: *heavy activity; heavy fighting.*
5.
 - a. Having great power or force: *a heavy punch.*
 - b. Violent; rough: *heavy seas.*
6.
 - a. Equipped with massive armaments and weapons: *a heavy cruiser; heavy infantry.*
 - b. Large enough to fire powerful shells: *heavy guns.*
7.
 - a. Indulging to a great degree: *a heavy drinker.*
 - b. Involved or participating on a large scale: *a heavy investor.*
8. Of great import or seriousness; grave: *heavy matters of state.*
9.
 - a. Having considerable thickness: *a heavy coat.*
 - b. Broad or coarse: *drew the face with heavy lines.*
10.
 - a. Dense; thick: *a heavy fog.*
 - b. Slow to dissipate; strong: *"There was a heavy fragrance of flowers and lemon trees" (Mario Puzo).*
 - c. Too dense or rich to digest easily: *a heavy dessert.*
 - d. Insufficiently leavened: *heavy bread.*
 - e. Full of clay and readily saturated: *heavy soil.*
11.
 - a. Weighed down; burdened: *trees heavy with plums.*
 - b. Emotionally weighed down; despondent: *a heavy heart.*
 - c. Marked by or exhibiting weariness: *heavy lids.*
 - d. Sad or painful: *heavy news.*
12.
 - a. Hard to do or accomplish; arduous: *heavy going; heavy reading.*
 - b. Not easily borne; oppressive: *heavy taxes.*
13. Lacking vitality; deficient in vivacity or grace: *a heavy gait; heavy humor.*
14. Sharply inclined; steep: *a heavy grade.*
15. Having a large capacity or designed for rough work: *a heavy truck.*
16. Of, relating to, or involving the large-scale production of basic products, such as steel: *heavy industry.*
17. Of or relating to a serious dramatic role.
18. *Physics* Of or relating to an isotope with an atomic mass greater than the average mass of that element.
19. Loud; sonorous: *a heavy sound; heavy breathing.*
20. *Linguistics* Of, relating to, or being a syllable ending in a long vowel or in a vowel plus two consonants.
21. *Slang*
 - a. Of great significance or profundity.

b. Very popular or important: *a rock star who is really heavy.*

adv. **heav·i·er, heav·i·est**

Heavily: *The snow is falling heavier tonight than last night.*

n. pl. **heav·ies**

1.

a. A serious or tragic role in a play.

b. An actor playing such a role.

2. Slang A villain in a story or play.

3. Slang A mobster.

4. Slang One that is very important or influential: *a media heavy.*

[Middle English *hevi*, from Old English *hefig*; see **kap-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

heav i·ness *n.*

Synonyms: heavy, weighty, hefty, massive, ponderous

These adjectives mean having a relatively great weight. *Heavy* refers to what has great physical weight (*a heavy boulder*) and figuratively to what is burdensome or oppressive to the spirit (*heavy responsibilities*). *Weighty* literally denotes having considerable weight (*a weighty package*); figuratively, it describes what is onerous, serious, or important (*a weighty decision*). *Hefty* refers principally to physical heaviness or brawniness: *a hefty book*; *a short, hefty wrestler*. *Massive* describes what is bulky, heavy, solid, and strong: *massive marble columns*. *Ponderous* refers to what has great mass and weight and usually implies unwieldiness: *ponderous prehistoric beasts*. Figuratively it describes what is complicated, involved, or lacking in grace: *a book with a ponderous plot*.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

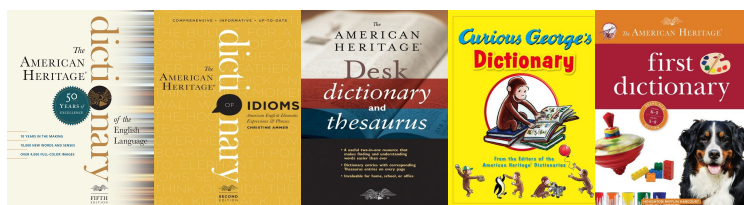
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