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heave 🗣️ (hēv)

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v. heaved, heav·ing, heaves

v.tr.

1. To raise or lift, especially with great effort or force: *heaved the box of books onto the table.* See Synonyms at [lift](#).

2.

a. To throw (a heavy object) with great effort; hurl: *heave the shot; heaved a brick through the window.*

b. To throw or toss: *heaved his backpack into the corner.*

3. To give out or utter with effort or pain: *heaved a sigh; heaved a groan.*

4. To vomit (something).

5. *past tense and past participle hove* (hōv) **Nautical**

a. To raise or haul up by means of a rope, line, or cable: *hove the anchor up and set sail.*

b. To move (a ship) in a certain direction or into a certain position by hauling: *hove the ship astern.*

6. To make rise or swell: *the wind heaving huge waves; an exhausted dog heaving its chest.*

7. **Geology** To displace or move (a vein, lode, or stratum, for example).

v.intr.

1. To rise up or swell, as if pushed up; bulge: *The sidewalk froze and heaved.*

2. To rise and fall in turn, as waves.

3. To gag or vomit.

4. To pant; gasp: *heave for air.*

5. *past tense and past participle hove* **Nautical**

a. To move in a certain direction or to a specified position: *The frigate hove alongside.*

b. To pull at or haul a rope or cable: *The brig is heaving around on the anchor.*

c. To push at a capstan bar or lever.

n.

1. The act or effort of raising or lifting something: *with a great heave hauled the fish onto the deck.*

2. An act of hurling; a throw, especially when considered in terms of distance: *a heave of 63 feet.*

3. **Geology**

a. A horizontal dislocation, as of a rock stratum, at a fault.

b. An upward movement of a surface, especially when caused by swelling and expansion of clay, removal of overburden, or freezing of subsurface water.

4. An upward movement, especially of a ship or aircraft.

5. The act or an instance of gagging or vomiting.

6. **heaves** (*used with a sing. or pl. verb*) See [recurrent airway obstruction](#).

Phrasal Verb:

heave to **Nautical**

1. To turn a sailing ship so that its bow heads into the wind and the ship lies motionless except for drifting, as to meet a storm: *The brig hove to.*

2. To turn an engine-powered vessel in a similar situation so that its bow heads into the seas while proceeding at low speed.

Idiom:

heave into sight/view

To rise or seem to rise over the horizon into view, as a ship.

[Middle English *heven*, from Old English *hebban*; see **kap-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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