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catch 🗣️ (kăch, kěch)

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v. **caught** (kôt), **catch-ing**, **catch-es**

v.tr.

1.

a. To get and hold (something that has been in motion) in a hand, the hands, a container, or an implement: *caught the ball in the web of the lacrosse stick.*

b. To take hold of, especially forcibly or suddenly; grasp: *caught me by the arm; caught the reins.*

c. To stop (oneself) from doing an action: *I caught myself before replying.*

2.

a. To capture or seize, especially after a chase: *The police caught the robber in the next town.*

b. To capture or take by trapping, snaring, or some other means: *I caught three fish with that lure.*

c. To take in and hold or contain: *a pond that catches runoff.*

3.

a. To discover or come upon suddenly, unexpectedly, or accidentally: *He was caught in the act of stealing.*

b. To become cognizant or aware of suddenly: *caught her gazing out the window.*

4.

a. To reach just in time; get so as to be carried by: *caught the bus to town; catch a wave.*

b. To overtake: *The driver of the green car caught the leader on the straightaway.*

5.

a. To cause to become hooked, entangled, or fastened: *caught my hem on the stair.*

b. To hold up; delay: *was caught in traffic for an hour.*

6.

a. To make contact with; strike: *The boxer caught his opponent with a left hook.*

b. To propel an object so that it hits (something): *The center caught the back of the net with a hard shot.*

7.

a. To become subject to or to contract, as by exposure to a pathogen: *catch a cold.*

b. To become affected by or infused with: *caught the joyous mood of the festival.*

c. To suffer from the receipt of (criticism, for example): *caught hell for being late.*

8.

a. To perceive suddenly or momentarily: *We caught a glimpse of the movie star. I caught a whiff of her perfume.*

b. To hear or listen to: *caught the news bulletin on the radio; didn't catch the end of your sentence*

c. To grasp mentally; apprehend: *I don't catch your meaning.*

9.

a. To go to see (a performance, for example): *caught the midnight show.*

b. To get (something required), usually quickly or for a brief period: *catch some sleep.*

10.

a. To attract and fix; arrest: *couldn't catch their attention; caught the teacher's eye.*

b. To reproduce or represent effectively: *an impressionist who caught the effects of wind and water in his paintings.*

11. To deceive: *failed to be caught by their fraudulent schemes.*

12. **Baseball** To play (a game) as catcher.

v.intr.

1. To become held, entangled, or fastened: *My coat caught in the car door.*

2. To act or move so as to hold or grab someone or something: *tried to catch at the life preserver.*

3. To be communicable or infectious; spread.

4. To become ignited: *The fire caught.*

5. Baseball To act as catcher.

n.

1.

a. The act of catching, especially the grabbing and holding of a thrown, kicked, or batted ball before it hits the ground.

b. A game of throwing and catching a ball.

2.

a. A quantity that is caught: *The catch amounted to 50 fish.*

b. Something that is perceived or noticed: *The mistake you found was a good catch.*

c. Informal A person considered to be an attractive or admirable romantic partner.

3. A tricky or previously unsuspected condition or drawback: *It sounds like a good offer, but there may be a catch.*

4. A device for fastening something or for checking motion: *The car's hood has a safety catch.*

5. A choking or stoppage of the breath or voice: *a catch in his voice.*

6. A snatch; a fragment: *could only hear catches of the song.*

7. Music A canonic, often rhythmically intricate composition for three or more voices, popular especially in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Phrasal Verbs:

catch on

1. To understand something: *These students catch on quickly.*

2. To become popular: *Skateboarding caught on quickly.*

catch out

To detect (another) in wrongdoing or error.

catch up

1. To move fast enough to attain the same progress as another; draw even: *caught up to the leader on the last lap of the race.*

2. To become equal or on a par with another: *finally caught up with his brother in height.*

3. To bring an activity to completion or to a state of currentness: *catch up on correspondence.*

4. To bring (another) up to date; brief: *Let me catch you up on all the gossip.*

5. To seize or lift suddenly: *The wind caught up the umbrella and carried it off.*

6. To involve, often unwillingly: *was caught up in the scandal.*

7. To captivate; enthrall: *I was caught up in the mood of the evening.*

Idioms:

catch fire

1. To ignite.

2. To become very enthusiastic.

3. To become the subject of great interest and widespread enthusiasm: *an idea that caught fire all over the country.*

catch it Informal

To receive a punishment or scolding.

catch (one's) breath

To rest so as to be able to continue an activity.

catch (one's) death

To catch a cold or other illness.

catch up with

1. To find or arrest after a period of pursuit: *The police finally caught up with him in Omaha.*

2. To have unpleasant consequences for, especially after a period of quiescence: *mistakes that caught up with him when he ran for president.*

catch you later

Informal Used to express good-bye.

[Middle English *cacchen*, from Old North French *cachier*, to chase, from Vulgar Latin **captiāre*; see [CHASE](#)¹.]

catch **a·ble** *adj.*

Synonyms: *catch*, *enmesh*, *ensnare*, *entangle*, *entrap*, *snare*¹, *trap*¹

These verbs mean to take in and hold as if by using bait or a lure: *caught in a web of lies*; *enmeshed in the dispute*; *ensnared an unsuspecting customer*; *became entangled in her own contradictions*; *entrapped by a convincing undercover agent*; *snared by false hopes*; *trapped into incriminating himself*.

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

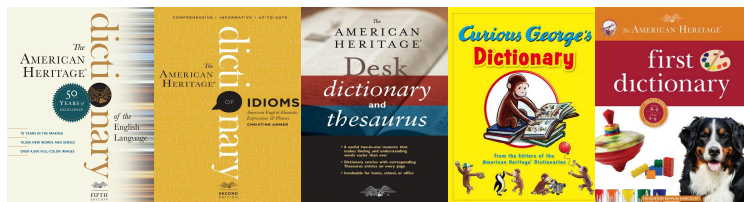
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