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**head**  (hĕd)

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*n.*

**1.**

**a.** The uppermost or forwardmost part of the body of a vertebrate, containing the brain and the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and jaws.

**b.** The analogous part of an invertebrate organism.

**c.** The length or height of such a part: *The horse lost by a head. She is two heads taller than he is.*

**2.** The seat of the faculty of reason; intelligence, intellect, or mind: *I did the figuring in my head.*

**3.** Mental ability or aptitude: *She has a good head for mathematics.*

**4.** Freedom of choice or action: *Give the child his head and see how well he solves the problems.*

**5. Slang**

**a.** A habitual drug user. Often used in combination: *a dopehead.*

**b.** An enthusiast. Often used in combination: *a chilihead.*

**6.** A person considered foolish or contemptible. Often used in combination: *a chowderhead.*

**7.** A portrait or representation of a person's head.

**8.** often **heads** (*used with a sing. verb*) The side of a coin having the principal design, often the profile of a political leader's head.

**9. Informal** A headache: *had a bad head early this morning.*

**10.**

**a.** An individual; a person: *charged five dollars a head.*

**b. pl. head** A single animal: *20 head of cattle.*

**11.**

**a.** A person who leads, rules, or is in charge; a leader, chief, or director: *the head of the corporation.*

**b.** A headmaster or headmistress.

**12.** The foremost or leading position: *marched at the head of the parade.*

**13.** A headwaiter.

**14.**

**a.** The difference in depth of a liquid at two given points.

**b.** The measure of pressure at the lower point expressed in terms of this difference.

**c.** The pressure exerted by a liquid or gas: *a head of steam.*

**d.** The liquid or gas exerting the pressure.

**15.** The froth or foam that rises to the top in pouring an effervescent liquid, such as beer.

**16.** The tip of an abscess, boil, or pimple, in which pus forms.

**17.** A turning point; a crisis: *bring matters to a head.*

**18.**

**a.** A projection, weight, or fixture at the end of an elongated object: *the head of a pin; a head of land overlooking the harbor.*

**b.** The working end of a tool or implement: *the head of a hammer.*

**c.** The looped part at the end a lacrosse stick, to which the webbing is attached.

**d.** The part of an explosive device that carries the explosive; a warhead.

**e.** The part of a stringed instrument where the strings are wound; a tuning head.

**f.** A tuning machine.

**19. Anatomy**

**a.** The rounded proximal end of a long bone: *the head of the femur.*

**b.** The end of a muscle that is attached to the less movable part of the skeleton.

20.

- a. An attachment to or part of a machine that holds or contains the operative device.
  - b. The magnetic head of a tape recorder or VCR.
  - c. The device in a magnetic disk or tape drive that enables it to read data from and write data to the disk or tape.
21. A rounded compact mass, as of leaves or buds: *a head of cabbage*.

22. *Botany* A flower head.

23. The uppermost part; the top: *Place the appropriate name at the head of each column*.

24. The end considered the most important: *sat at the head of the table*.

25. Either end of an object, such as a drum, whose two ends are interchangeable.

26. *Nautical*

a. The forward part of a vessel.

b. The top part or upper edge of a sail.

27. A toilet, especially on a ship.

28. A passage or gallery in a coal mine.

29. *Printing*

a. The top of a book or page.

b. A headline or heading.

c. A distinct topic or category: *under the head of recent Spanish history*.

30. Headway; progress.

31. *Linguistics* The word determining the grammatical category of a constituent, often establishing relations of concord or agreement (such as subject-verb agreement) with other constituents.

32. *Vulgar Slang* Oral sex.

*adj.*

1. Of, relating to, or intended for the head. Often used in combination: *headshaking; headwrap*.

2. Foremost in rank or importance: *the head librarian*.

3. Placed at the top or the front: *the head name on the list*.

4. *Slang* Of, relating to, or for drugs or drug users.

v. **head·ed, head·ing, heads**

v.tr.

1. To be in charge of; lead: *The minister headed the committee*.

2. To be in the first or foremost position of: *Collins heads the list of job candidates*.

3. To aim, point, or turn in a certain direction: *headed the team of horses up the hill*.

4. To remove the head or top of.

5. *Sports* To hit (a soccer ball) in the air with one's head.

6. To provide with a head: *head each column with a number; headed the flagpole with a golden ball*.

v.intr.

1. To proceed or go in a certain direction: *head for town*.

2. To form a head, as lettuce or cabbage.

3. To originate, as a stream or river; rise.

**Phrasal Verb:**

**head off**

To block the progress or completion of; intercept: *Try to head him off before he gets home. The town headed off the attempt to build another mall*.

**Idioms:**

**have a big/swelled head**

To be overly self-confident or conceited.

**head and shoulders above**

Far superior to: *head and shoulders above her colleagues in analytical capability*.

**head over heels**

1. Rolling, as in a somersault: *tripped and fell head over heels*.

2. Completely; hopelessly: *head over heels in love*.

**keep (one's) head**

To remain calm; remain in control of oneself.

**lose (one's) head**

To lose one's poise or self-control.

**off/out of (one's) head**

Crazy; deranged.

**on (one's) head**

As one's responsibility or fault: *If this project fails, it's on your head*.

**over (one's) head**

1. Beyond one's comprehension.
2. Beyond one's financial means.

**put heads together**

To consult and plan together: *Let's put our heads together and solve this problem.*

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

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**Head**  (hĕd), **Edith** 1897-1981.

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American costume designer for more than 500 motion pictures, including *All About Eve* (1950).



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**Edith Head**

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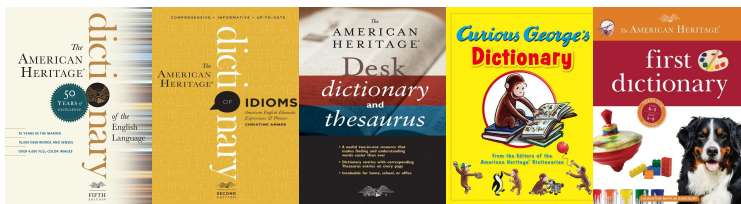
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