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hard  (härd)

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adj. **hard·er, hard·est**

1.
 - a. Resistant to pressure; not readily penetrated; firm or solid: *a hard material.*
 - b. Well protected from an attack, as by aerial bombardment: *bunkers and other hard targets.*
2.
 - a. Requiring great effort or endurance: *a hard assignment.*
 - b. Performed with or marked by great diligence or energy: *a project that required years of hard work.*
 - c. Difficult to resolve, accomplish, or finish: *That was a hard question.*
 - d. Difficult to understand or impart: *Physics was the hardest of my courses. Thermodynamics is a hard course to teach.*
3. Proceeding or performing with force, vigor, or persistence; assiduous: *a hard worker.*
4.
 - a. Intense in force or degree: *a hard blow.*
 - b. Inclement or severe: *a long, hard winter.*
5.
 - a. Stern, strict, or demanding: *a hard taskmaster.*
 - b. Lacking compassion or sympathy; callous: *became hard after years in prison.*
6.
 - a. Difficult to endure; causing hardship or suffering: *a hard life.*
 - b. Oppressive or unjust in nature or effect: *restrictions that were hard on welfare applicants.*
 - c. Harsh or severe in effect or intention: *I said some hard things that I regret.*
 - d. Marked by stubborn refusal to compromise or yield; uncompromising: *drives a hard bargain.*
 - e. Bitter or resentful: *hard feelings caused by the insult.*
 - f. Showing disapproval, bitterness, or resentment: *gave me a hard look.*
7.
 - a. Causing damage or premature wear: *Snow and ice are hard on a car's finish.*
 - b. Bad; adverse: *hard luck.*
8.
 - a. Real and unassailable: *hard evidence.*
 - b. Definite; firm: *a hard commitment.*
 - c. Free from illusion or sentimentality; practical or realistic: *We need to take a hard look at the situation.*
 - d. Using or based on data that are readily quantified or verified: *the hard sciences.*
9.
 - a. Marked by sharp delineation or contrast: *a hard line separating the two lists.*
 - b. Lacking in shade; undiminished: *the hard light of the midday sun.*
10. Hardcore.
11. Being a turn in a specific direction at an angle more acute than other possible routes.
12.
 - a. Metallic, as opposed to paper. Used of currency.
 - b. Backed by bullion rather than by credit. Used of currency.
 - c. High and stable. Used of prices.
13.
 - a. Durable; lasting: *hard merchandise.*
 - b. Written or printed rather than stored in electronic media: *sent the information by hard mail.*

14. Erect; tumid. Used of a penis.
- 15.
- a. Having high alcoholic content; intoxicating: *hard liquor*.
- b. Rendered alcoholic by fermentation; fermented: *hard cider*.
16. Containing dissolved salts that interfere with the lathering action of soap or other cleansing agents. Used of water.
17. *Linguistics* Velar, as in *c* in *cake* or *g* in *log*, as opposed to palatal or soft.
18. *Physics* Of relatively high energy; penetrating: *hard x-rays*.
19. High in gluten content: *hard wheat*.
20. *Chemistry* Resistant to biodegradation: *a hard detergent*.
21. Extremely or dangerously addictive. Used of certain illegal drugs, such as heroin.
- adv.*
1. With strenuous effort; intently: *worked hard all day*; *stared hard at the accused criminal*.
2. With great force, vigor, or energy: *pressed hard on the lever*.
3. In such a way as to cause great damage or hardship: *industrial cities hit hard by unemployment*.
4. With great distress, grief, or bitterness: *took the divorce hard*.
5. Firmly; securely: *held hard to the railing*.
6. Toward or into a solid condition: *concrete that sets hard within a day*.
7. Near in space or time; close: *The factory stands hard by the railroad tracks*.
8. *Nautical* Completely; fully: *hard alee*.
- Idioms:**
- hard and fast***
- Defined, fixed, and invariable: *hard and fast rules*.
- hard of hearing***
1. Having a partial loss of hearing.
2. People who have partial loss of hearing, considered as a group.
- hard put***
- Undergoing great difficulty: *Under the circumstances, he was hard put to explain himself*.
- hard up*** *Informal*
1. In need; poor.
2. Lacking something that is greatly desired: *hard up for companionship*.

[Middle English, from Old English *heard*; see **kar-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

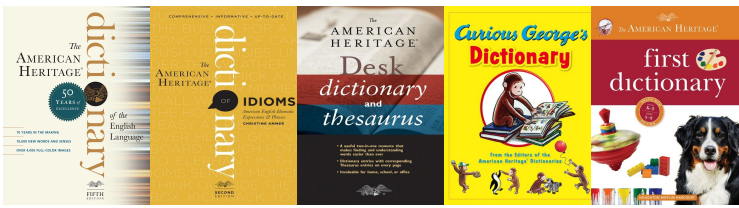
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