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cone  (kōn)

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n.

1. Mathematics

a. The surface generated by a straight line, the generator, passing through a fixed point, the vertex, and moving along a fixed curve, the directrix.

b. A right circular cone.

2.

a. The figure formed by a cone, bound or regarded as bound by its vertex and a plane section taken anywhere above or below the vertex.

b. Something having the shape of this figure: "*the cone of illuminated drops spilling beneath a street lamp*" (Anne Tyler).

3. Botany

a. A unisexual reproductive structure of most gymnospermous plants, such as conifers and cycads, typically consisting of a central axis around which there are scaly, overlapping, spirally arranged sporophylls that bear either pollen-containing structures or ovules.

b. A similar, spore-producing structure of club mosses, horsetails, and spikemosses.

c. A reproductive structure resembling a cone, such as the female inflorescence of a hop plant or the woody female catkin of an alder.

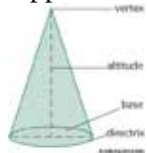
4. Physiology One of the photoreceptors in the retina of the eye that is responsible for daylight and color vision. These photoreceptors are most densely concentrated in the fovea centralis, creating the area of greatest visual acuity. Also called *cone cell*.

5. Any of various gastropod mollusks of the family Conidae of tropical and subtropical seas that have a conical, often vividly marked shell and that inject their prey with poisonous toxins, which can be fatal to humans. Also called *cone shell*.

tr.v. **coned**, **con-ing**, **cones**

To shape (something) like a cone or a segment of one.

[French *cône* and Middle English *cone*, angle of a quadrant, both from Latin *cōnus*, from Greek *kōnos*; see **kō-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]



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cone

top: right circular cone

bottom: cones and rods of a human eye

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

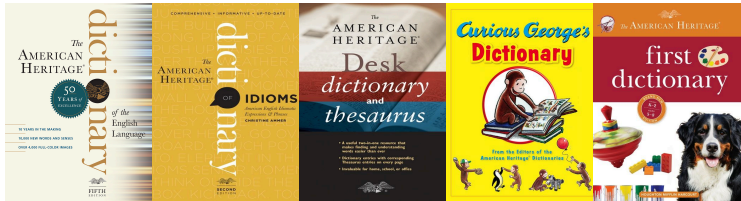
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