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her·ald  (hěŕ əld)

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n.

1. A person who carries or proclaims important news; a messenger.
2. One that gives a sign or indication of something to come; a harbinger: *The crocus is a herald of spring.*
3. An official whose specialty is heraldry.
4.
 - a. An official formerly charged with making royal proclamations and bearing messages of state between sovereigns.
 - b. An official who formerly made proclamations and conveyed challenges at a tournament.

tr.v. **her·ald·ed**, **her·ald·ing**, **her·alds**

1. To proclaim, especially with enthusiasm; announce or acclaim: *cheers that heralded the team's arrival.*
2. To be a sign of; foreshadow: *The discovery heralds a new era in drug treatment.*

[Middle English, from Anglo-Norman, of Germanic origin; see **koro-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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