



Dictionary

Thesaurus

crest



Games

Word of the Day

Grammar

Word Finder

Slang

Newsletters

Wordplay

More

Studying drain your battery?
Find chargers nearby.



Shop Now

Dictionary

Definition

noun

verb

Synonyms

Example Sentences

Word History

Phrases Containing

Rhymes

Entries Near

Cite this Entry

Share

Kids Definition

Medical Definition

More from M-W

Show Less

Save Word

crest

1 of 2

noun

ˈkrest

Synonyms of *crest*

- a** : a showy tuft or process on the head of an animal and especially a bird
→ see [bird illustration](#)

b : the plume or identifying emblem worn on a knight's helmet
also : the top of a helmet

c (1) : a heraldic representation of the crest
(2) : a heraldic device depicted above the escutcheon (see [ESCUTCHEON sense 1](#)) but not upon a helmet
(3) : [COAT OF ARMS sense 2a](#)

d : a ridge or prominence on a part of an animal body
- 2** : something suggesting a crest especially in being an upper prominence, edge, or limit: such as

a : [PEAK](#)
especially : the top line of a mountain or hill

b : the ridge of a roof

c : the top of a wave
- a** : a high point of an action or process and especially of one that is rhythmic

b : [CLIMAX](#), [CULMINATION](#)
| at the *crest* of his fame

crestal ˈkre-stəl adjective

crestless ˈkrest-ləs adjective

crest

2 of 2

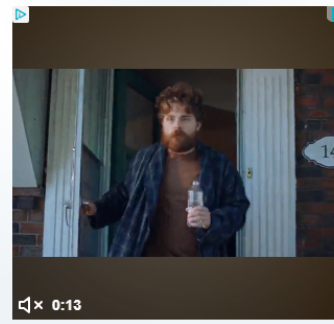
verb

crested; cresting; crests

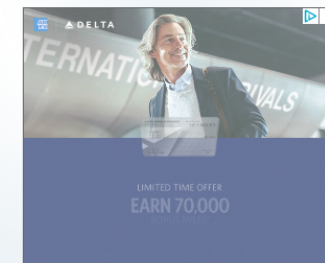
transitive verb

- 1** : to furnish with a crest
also : [CROWN](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



ADVERTISEMENT



WORD OF THE DAY

2 : to reach the crest of
| *crested* the hill and looked around

intransitive verb

: to rise to a crest
| waves *cresting* in the storm

ADVERTISEMENT



• **Synonyms**

Noun

pinnacle	top	zenith
height	peak	culmination
apex		

[See All Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus >](#)

• **Examples of *crest* in a Sentence**

Noun

| at that point the filmmaker was at the **crest** of his critical acclaim, which included winning an Oscar for best picture

| the hiking party reached the **crest** of the mountain just as it began to thunder

Verb

| We **crested** the hill and looked out around us.

flummox

[See Definitions and Examples »](#)

Get Word of the Day daily email!

Your email add

SUBSCRIBE

ADVERTISEMENT



Recent Examples on the Web

 Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. Opinions expressed in the examples do not represent those of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback.](#)

Noun

Bighorn Scenic Byway Wyoming Embrace your inner cowboy with a drive along the Bighorn Scenic Byway, which takes you over the **crest** of the Big Horn Mountains and to spots like the city of Sheridan, where New West meets Old West in the historic downtown.

— Beth Luberecki, *USA Today*, 6 Sep. 2025

Diamond Pattern The diamond pattern has been present in Japanese art since the ancient times, and is also the motif of the Okura family **crest**.

— Isabelle Kliger, *Forbes.com*, 2 Sep. 2025

Verb

Fire progress slowed as the fire **crested** some of the initial ridges and began backing downhill.

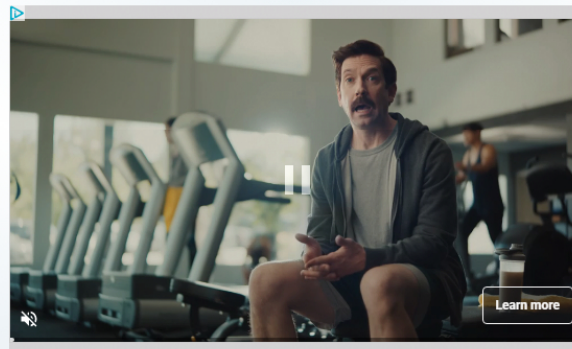
— Ca Wildfire Bot, *Sacbee.com*, 8 Sep. 2025

Both Pink Floyd and Black Sabbath **crested** in popularity in the 1970s, capturing die-hard fans amid the growing popularity of rock.

— Anna Kaufman, *USA Today*, 4 Sep. 2025

[See All Example Sentences for crest >](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



Word History

Etymology

Noun and Verb

Middle English *creste*, from Anglo-French, from Latin *crista*; probably akin to Latin *crinis* hair

First Known Use

Noun

14th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1a](#)

Verb

15th century, in the meaning defined at [transitive sense 1](#)

Time Traveler

The first known use of *crest* was in the 14th century

[See more words from the same century](#)

Phrases Containing *crest*

[neural crest](#)

Rhymes for *crest*

blessed	blest	breast
chest	dressed	fest
gest	geste	guessed
jest	lest	messed

[See All Rhymes for *crest* >](#)

Browse Nearby Words

[cressy](#) **crest** [crest clearance](#)

[See All Nearby Words >](#)

Cite this Entry

Style MLA ▼

"Crest." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/crest>. Accessed 12 Sep. 2025.

 Copy Citation

Share



Kids Definition

crest ^{1 of 2} noun

'krest 

- 1 **a** : a showy growth (as of flesh or feathers) on the head of an animal
| **b** : an emblem or design on a helmet (as of a knight) or over a coat of arms
- 2 : an upper part, edge, or limit
| the *crest* of a hill
| the *crest* of a wave

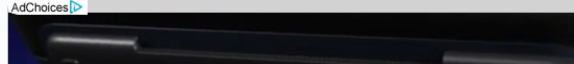
crested 'kres-təd adjective

crest ^{2 of 2} verb

- 1 : to give a crest to
- 2 : to reach the crest of
| *crest* the hill
- 3 : to rise to a crest
| sea waves *cresting*

ADVERTISEMENT

AdChoices 





Medical Definition

crest noun

'krest 

- 1** : a showy tuft or process on the head of an animal and especially a bird
- 2** : a process or prominence on a part of an animal body: as
 - a** : the upper curve or ridge of the neck of a quadruped (as a horse)
also : the mane borne on such a crest
 - b** : a ridge especially on a bone
| the *crest* of the tibia
→ see [FRONTAL CREST](#), [OCCIPITAL CREST](#)

More from Merriam-Webster on *crest*

English: [Translation of *crest* for Spanish Speakers](#)

Last Updated: 7 Sep 2025 - Updated example sentences

Love words? Need even more definitions?

Subscribe to America's largest dictionary and get thousands more definitions and advanced search—ad free!

MERRIAM-WEBSTER UNABRIDGED

Popular in Grammar & Usage

[See More](#) >

- Point A
- Point B
- Point C

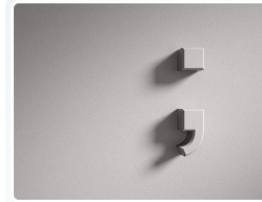
Using Bullet Points (•)



Merriam-Webster's Great Big List of Words You Love to Hate



How to Use Em Dashes (—), En Dashes (–), and Hyphens (-)



A Guide to Using Semicolons



The Difference Between 'i.e.' and 'e.g.'

Popular in Wordplay

[See More >](#)



Great Big List of Beautiful and Useless Words, Vol. 3



Our Best Historical Slang Terms



Birds Say the Darndest Things



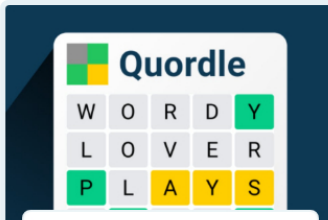
Even More Bird Names that Sound Like Insults (and Sometimes Are)



Better Ways to Say 'This Sucks'

Games & Quizzes

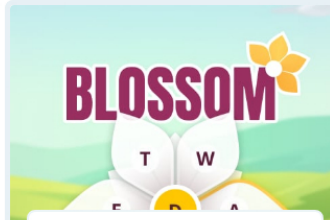
[See All >](#)



Quordle

Can you solve 4 words at once?

[Play](#)



Blossom

Pick the best words!

[Play](#)



Missing Letter

A daily crossword with a twist

[Play](#)



Challenging Standardized Test Words

20 questions to help you score 1600

[Take the quiz](#)

Learn a new word every day.
Delivered to your inbox!

Your email address

[SUBSCRIBE](#)





© 2025 Merriam-Webster, Incorporated



 **Vitamix.**
Battle-tested in professional kitchens.



Vitamix Propel Series 750 Blend...
\$544⁰⁰ ~~\$629.95~~

[Add to cart](#)