

cap

 1 of 8 noun (1)

'kap ◀▶

Synonyms of *cap* >**often attributive****1 a** : a head covering especially with a visor and no brim**b** : a distinctive head covering emblematic of a position or office: such as**(1)** : a cardinal's biretta**(2)** : **MORTARBOARD****2** : a natural cover or top: such as**a** : an overlying rock layer that is usually hard to penetrate**b (1)** : **PILEUS****(2)** : **CALYPTRA****c** : the top of a bird's head or a patch of distinctively colored feathers in this area**3 a** : something that serves as a cover or protection especially for a tip, knob, or end
a bottle *cap***b** : a fitting for closing the end of a tube**c British** : **CERVICAL CAP****d** : an artificial crown for a tooth**4** : an overlying or covering structure

a *cap* on military spending

7 : the symbol $\cap$ indicating the intersection of two sets

→ compare CUP sense 9

8 : a cluster of molecules or chemical groups bound to one end or a region of a cell, virus, or molecule

see also: CAP IN HAND

cap 2 of 8 verb (1)

capped; capping

transitive verb

1 a : to provide or protect with a cap

cap a bottle

b : to give a cap to as a symbol of honor, rank, or achievement

2 : to form a cap over : **CROWN**

mountains *capped* with mist

3 a : to follow with something more noticeable or more significant : **OUTDO**

b : to bring to a climax or conclusion

cap off the show with a song

4 : to form a chemical cap on

5 : to prevent from growing or spreading : set an upper limit on

cap oil prices

6 : to supply (a tooth) with an artificial crown

cap 3 of 8 noun (2)

: a small amount of an illegal or legally regulated drug

especially : a small amount of a drug enclosed in a capsule

a *cap* of cocaine

cap 4 of 8 noun (3)

plural **caps**

1 : CAPITALIZATION sense 1d

2 : a capital letter → usually plural

a message written in *caps*

According to [linguist Deborah] Tannen, women's preference for expressive hashtags is "similar to their using exclamation points, *caps*, and repetition of letters to show emphasis, and to the fact that women's spoken intonation patterns tend to vary more than men's."

– Jessica Bennett

Good netiquette includes not using ***all caps*** [=exclusively capital letters] when typing, as it comes across as shouting.

– John DeGarmo

cap 5 of 8 verb (2)

capped; capping or cappin'

'ka-pən ◀▶

intransitive verb

1 African American English slang : to make an untrue statement with intent to deceive : LIE

Worst thing you could do is *cap* to me

– Kurt Hammer, quoted at *Newsweek* (online)

often, specifically : to lie by boasting or exaggerating

We will get them for sure ... not even in doubt or *capping* ...

– @damianfx_, on X, formerly *Twitter*

2 African American English slang : to engage in a ritualized exchange of insults with someone : to tease or insult a person in capping → usually used with *on*

As a member a fraternity, I can joke around and *cap* on a fellow fraternity brother.

– Roland S. Martin

When *capping* on someone, the top insults are the ones directed at a person's mother.

– Allan Johnson

cap 6 of 8 noun (4)

slang

: NONSENSE

... a good point even tho that last part is *cap*.

– @gamecubep, on X, formerly *Twitter*

especially : empty boasting or dishonest talk → often used in the phrase **to call cap (on)**

... some continue to *call cap on* ... claims that he was working on a joint album with the late B.I.G. ...

– Sha Be Allah

→ see also NO CAP

NOTE: Usage of this term originated in African American English and has since become widespread.

cap 7 of 8 abbreviation (1)

1 capacity

CAP 8 of 8 **abbreviation (2)**

- 1 Civil Air Patrol
- 2 combat air patrol

Noun (1)

Relevance

hat

helmet

Verb (1)

limit

restrict

Noun (2)

pill

tablet

capsule

See All Synonyms & Antonyms in Thesaurus

Noun (1)

grabbed a **cap** and plopped it on his head before running out

I can't find the **cap** to the milk bottle

Recent Examples on the Web

i Examples are automatically compiled from online sources to show current usage. [Read More](#)

Noun

Among the 10 biggest AI supply chain companies by market **cap**, the report found that other than battery giant CATL , the nine other names had all at least doubled in the 12 months as of May.

– Evelyn Cheng, *CNBC*, 28 June 2026 [↗](#)

If approved by voters on the statewide ballot in November, the amendment would raise a **cap** on mandatory deposits into the rainy day fund from 10% to 20% of general fund revenue.

– Taryn Luna, *Los Angeles Times*, 27 June 2026 [↗](#)

Verb

Uber fired the first shot with a ballot measure that sought to **cap** how much attorneys can earn in lawsuits involving auto accidents.

– Rebecca Ellis, *Los Angeles Times*, 26 June 2026 [↗](#)

Dansby Swanson had a go-ahead RBI triple and four RBIs to **cap** a monster doubleheader performance and help the Chicago Cubs sweep the reeling New York Mets with a 10-5 victory Wednesday night.

– *CBS News*, 25 June 2026 [↗](#)

See All Example Sentences for *cap*

Etymology

Noun (2)

short for *capsule*

Verb (2)

perhaps development of CAP entry 2 in sense "outdo, surpass"

Noun (4)

derivative of CAP entry 5

First Known Use

Noun (1)

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1a

Verb (1)

15th century, in the meaning defined at transitive sense 1a

Noun (2)

1942, in the meaning defined above

Noun (3)

1906, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Verb (2)

1906, in the meaning defined at sense 1

Noun (4)

2011, in the meaning defined above

Time Traveler

The first known use of *cap* was before the 12th century

See more words from the same century

a feather in one's cap

baseball cap

blasting cap

cap-a-pie

cap sleeve

cradle cap

a feather in someone's cap

bathing cap

cap-and-trade

cap in hand

cervical cap

death cap

See More ▾

app

clap

flap

gap

lap

nappe

chap

crap

frap

hap

nap

pap

See All Rhymes for *cap*



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See All Nearby Words

no cap

for real, seriously

Words We're Watching: 'Cap'

And where 'no cap' comes from

Style

MLA

"Cap." *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cap>. Accessed 28 Jun. 2026.

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kap ◀▶

- 1** : a head covering
especially : one that has a visor and no brim
- 2** : something that serves as a cover or protection for something
a bottle *cap*
- 3** : a natural cover or top: as
a : the umbrella-shaped part that bears the spores of a mushroom
b : the top of a bird's head
- 4** : a paper or metal container holding a small explosive charge (as for a toy pistol)

cap 2 of 2 verb

capped; capping

- 1** : to cover or provide with a cap
- 2** : to follow with something : **OUTDO**
- 3** : to bring to a conclusion
capped off the show with a song
- 4** : to prevent from growing or spreading : set a limit on
capped oil prices

Etymology

Noun

Middle English *cappe* "cap," from Old English *cæppe* "cap," from Latin *cappa* "head covering, cloak" — related to CAPE entry 2, CHAPEL

cap 1 of 3 **noun**'kap **often attributive****1** : a natural cover or top: as**a** : PILEUS**b** : PATELLA, KNEECAP**2** : something that serves as a cover or protection especially for a tip, knob, or end (as of a tooth)**3** **British** : CERVICAL CAP**4** : a cluster of molecules or chemical groups bound to one end or a region of a cell, virus, or moleculethe cell surface receptors were redistributed into *caps***cap** 2 of 3 **verb****capped; capping***transitive verb***1** : to invest (a student nurse) with a cap as an indication of completion of a probationary period of study**2** : to cover (a diseased or exposed part of a tooth) with a protective substance**3** : to form a chemical cap on
the *capped* end of a messenger RNA

cap 3 of 3 **abbreviation**

1 capacity

2 capsule

cap noun'kap 

: an upper limit

a jury found that KAL had committed “willful misconduct,” thus removing the Warsaw Convention's \$75,000 *cap* on damages

– *Dooley v. Korean Air Lines*, 524 U.S. 116 (1998)

verb

English: Translation of *cap* for Spanish Speakers

Britannica.com: Encyclopedia article about *cap*

Last Updated: 28 Jun 2026 - Updated example sentences

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- 5 secure**
- 6 socialism**
- 7 ephemeral**





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