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heyday

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heyday

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Definition of heyday

archaic

—used to express elation or wonder



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Origin and Etymology of *heyday*

irregular from *hey*

NEW! Time Traveler

First Known Use: 1599

in the meaning defined [above](#)

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2

heyday

[noun](#)

Definition of heyday

1 archaic : high spirits

2 : the period of one's greatest popularity, vigor, or prosperity

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Examples of *heyday* in a Sentence

1. in its *heyday*, the circus was a major form of entertainment for small-town America

Recent Examples of *heyday* from the Web

- How shows get road-tested, and where, has changed greatly since Boston's *heyday* as a tryout town, which lasted roughly from the 1920s to the early 1970s.
— [don aucoin, BostonGlobe.com, "A comeback role for Boston theaters?," 14 July 2018](#)
- Get our daily newsletter EVEN during its *heyday* in the 1930s, the Shanghai of legend seemed to live under a premonition of death.
— [The Economist, "A gripping tale of Sodom sliding towards its bloody end," 12 July 2018](#)
- In KGB's *heyday*, the District was home to underground punk, hard core, hip-hop and go-go music scenes, all with their own taggers.
— [anthony j. rivera, Washington Post, "Living D.C. graffiti legend went from rowdy thug to art teacher," 28 June 2018](#)

- The 300th anniversary of the pirate's *heyday* and demise is being marked with events ranging from educational displays and symposia to wakes.
— [john bordsen, USA TODAY, "N.C.'s haul from 'native son' Blackbeard's 300th anniversary: Tourist gold," 22 June 2018](#)
- Cerro Gordo's *heyday* lasted from just after the Civil War until the late 1870s, when a fire and falling silver prices caused prospectors to abandon the mine, according to the town's website.
— [gabby ferreira, sacbee, "You can buy this entire ghost town for less than the price of a San Francisco condo," 12 June 2018](#)
- Though the number of lanes has decreased from the sport's *heyday* last century, there are still a handful of classic lanes around, including Patterson Bowling Center, 2105 Eastern Ave.
— [baltimoresun.com, "Best of Baltimore 2018: Arts and activities," 11 Apr. 2018](#)
- Amid the fast food joints and low-budget casinos, remnants of Searchlight's mining *heyday* survive.
— [San Francisco Chronicle, "One Day, One Place: L.A. to Vegas along the scenic route," 19 Mar. 2018](#)
- The video game industry has changed since the Wii's *heyday*, though.
— [chris morris, Fortune, "Nintendo Switch Tops Lifetime Sales of Its Predecessor in 10 Months," 31 Jan. 2018](#)

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'heyday.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. [Send us feedback](#).

Did You Know?

In its earliest appearances in English, in the 16th century, "heyday" was used as an interjection that expressed elation or wonder (similar to our word *hey*, from which it derives). Around the same time, "heyday" saw use as a noun meaning "high spirits." (This sense can be seen in Act III, Scene IV of *Hamlet*, when the Prince of Denmark tells his mother, "You cannot call it love; for at your age / The heyday in the blood is tame....") It wasn't until the 18th century that English speakers, perhaps interpreting the "day" of the second syllable to mean "a time or period," began using "heyday" to refer to the period when one's achievement or popularity has reached its zenith.

First Known Use of *heyday*

1590

in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

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NEW! Time Traveler

heyday Synonyms

Synonyms

[bloom](#), [blossom](#), [floreescence](#), [flower](#), [flush](#), [high noon](#), [prime](#), [salad days](#);

Near Antonyms

[decay](#), [decline](#), [downfall](#);

[bottom](#), [nadir](#);

[shriveling](#) (or [shrivelling](#)), [wilting](#), [withering](#);

Related Words

[autumn](#), [Indian summer](#);

[blooming](#), [blossoming](#), [efflorescence](#), [flowering](#);

[acme](#), [apex](#), [climax](#), [meridian](#), [peak](#), [pinnacle](#), [summit](#), [zenith](#);

[glory](#), [grandeur](#), [splendor](#);

[belle epoque](#) (or [belle époque](#)), [golden age](#), [silver age](#);

[comeback](#), [recovery](#), [revival](#);

HEYDAY Defined for English Language Learners

heyday

noun

Definition of *heyday* for English Language Learners

- : the time when someone or something is most successful, popular, etc.
-

HEYDAY Defined for Kids

heyday

noun hey·day \ 'hā-, dā \

Definition of heyday for Students

: the time of greatest strength, popularity, or success

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WORD OF THE DAY

debunk^{play}

to expose the sham or falseness of

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The Good, The Bad, & The Semantically Imprecise - 8/3/2018

Words from the week of 8/3/2018

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Rare and Amusing Insults: Pillock, Mooncalf, and More

Rare and Amusing Insults

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The Many Different Faces of 'Franchise'

How one word got so many meanings.

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Ghost Word

The story of an imaginary word that managed to sneak past our editors and enter the dictionary.

-

2017 Word of the Year: Behind the Scenes

How we chose 'feminism'

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Literally

How to use a word that (literally) drives some people nuts.

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The awkward case of 'his or her'

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