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spearhead

[noun](#)spear·head | \ 'spir-,hed 

Definition of *spearhead*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : the sharp-pointed head of a [spear](#)

2 : a leading element, force, or influence in an undertaking or development

spearhead

[verb](#)

spearheaded; spearheading; spearheads

Definition of *spearhead* (Entry 2 of 2)[transitive verb](#)

: to serve as leader or leading element of

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Synonyms for *spearhead*

Synonyms: Verb

[boss](#), [captain](#), [command](#), [head](#), [lead](#)[Visit the Thesaurus for More](#) 

Examples of *spearhead* in a Sentence

Noun

Her book was the *spearhead* of the clean water movement.

Verb

She *spearheaded* the campaign for better schools.See More  

Recent Examples on the Web: Noun

Another of the Under-19's starlets, Emre Aydinel enjoyed a successful season as the *spearhead* for the side. — [SI.com, "Borussia Dortmund: 5 of BVB's Best Youngsters Who Deserve a Shot at the First Team in 2019/20," 23 July 2019](#) Police on Saturday detained Lyubov Sobol, an unregistered candidate who has become a *spearhead* of the protest. — [Washington Post, "1,000s gather for Moscow election protest," 11 Aug. 2019](#)

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

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First Known Use of *spearhead*

Noun

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

Verb

1937, in the meaning defined [above](#)

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

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More Definitions for *spearhead*

spearhead

[noun](#)



English Language Learners Definition of *spearhead*

(Entry 1 of 2)

: a person, thing, or group that organizes or leads something (such as a movement or attack)

spearhead

[verb](#)


English Language Learners Definition of *spearhead* (Entry 2 of 2)

: to be the leader of (something, such as a political movement)

[See the full definition for *spearhead* in the English Language Learners Dictionary.](#)

spearhead

[noun](#)

spear·head | \ 'spir-,hed  \

Kids Definition of *spearhead*

(Entry 1 of 2)

1 : the head or point of a spear

2 : the person, thing, or group that is the leading force (as in a development or an attack)

spearhead

[verb](#)

spearheaded; spearheading

Kids Definition of *spearhead* (Entry 2 of 2)

: to serve as leader of She *spearheaded* a campaign for change.

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to wander slowly or to speak
indistinctly

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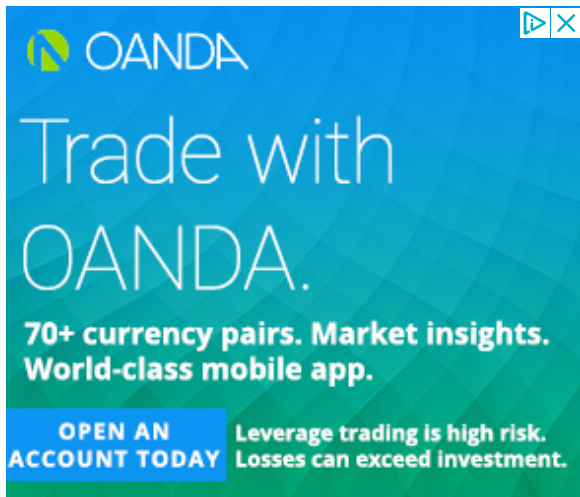
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spear

[noun \(1\)](#)\ 'spir  \

Definition of *spear*

(Entry 1 of 5)

1 : a thrusting or throwing weapon with long shaft and sharp head or blade

2 : a sharp-pointed instrument with barbs used in [spearing](#) fish3 : [spearman](#)

spear

[verb \(1\)](#)

speared; spearing; spears

Definition of *spear* (Entry 2 of 5)[transitive verb](#)

1 : to pierce, strike, or take with or as if with a spear spear salmon speared a chop from the platter

2 : to catch (something, such as a baseball) with a sudden thrust of the arm

3a ice hockey : to jab (an opposing player) with the blade of one's stick All game, the Caps held, hooked, slashed, speared, chopped, and bopped ... the Rangers' European players.— Stu Hackel

b American football : to ram (an opposing player) with one's helmet ... defensive end Ben Davidson set off a sidelines-clearing scrum when he speared Dawson from behind after he was down.— Jim Trotter

[intransitive verb](#)

: to thrust at or wound something with or as if with a spear

spear

[adjective](#)Definition of *spear* (Entry 3 of 5): [paternal sense 3](#) the spear side of the family — compare [distaff](#)

spear

[verb \(2\)](#)

speared; spearing; spears

Definition of *spear* (Entry 4 of 5)[intransitive verb](#)

of a plant

: to thrust a spear upward

spear

[noun \(2\)](#)Definition of *spear* (Entry 5 of 5)

: a usually young blade, shoot, or sprout (as of grass)

Other Words from *spear*

Verb (1)

spearer noun

First Known Use of *spear*

Noun (1)

before the 12th century, in the meaning defined at [sense 1](#)

Verb (1)

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

Adjective

1861, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Verb (2)

1573, in the meaning defined [above](#)

Noun (2)

1647, in the meaning defined [above](#)

History and Etymology for *spear*

Noun (1)

Middle English *spere*, from Old English; akin to Old High German *spēr* spear, Latin *sparus* hunting spear

Noun (2) and Verb (2)

alteration of [spire entry 1](#)

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spear

[noun](#)

\ 'spir  \

Kids Definition of *spear*

(Entry 1 of 3)

1 : a weapon with a long straight handle and sharp head or blade used for throwing or jabbing

2 : an instrument with a sharp point and curved hooks used in stabbing fish

spear

[verb](#)

speared; spearing

Kids Definition of *spear* (Entry 2 of 3)

: to strike or pierce with or as if with a spear

spear

[noun](#)

Kids Definition of *spear* (Entry 3 of 3)

: a usually young blade or sprout (as of grass)

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