

a-head

S1 W2

/ə'hed/

adverb

1 **in front** FRONT a short distance in front of someone or something

OPP

He kept his gaze fixed on the car ahead.

ahead of

A hill loomed ahead of them.

*We could see the lights of Las Vegas **up ahead**.*

some/a little/a long way ahead

The clinic was now in sight, some way ahead.

straight/dead ahead (= straight in front)

The river is eight miles away dead ahead.

Henry hurried on ahead (= went in front of the others) .

2 **forward** FORWARD if someone or something looks or moves ahead, they look or move forward:

*He stared **straight ahead**.*

The ship forged ahead through the thin ice.

3 **before somebody else** BEFORE before someone else:

ahead of

There were four people ahead of me at the doctor's.

4 **future** FUTURE in the future:

ahead of

*You **have** a long trip **ahead** of you.*

*Problems may **lie ahead**.*

the years/days/months etc ahead

We do not foresee any major changes in the years ahead.

*Unless we **plan ahead** (= plan for the future) we are going to be in a mess.*

5 | before an event BEFORE before an event happens

SYN in advance

I cook rice two or three hours ahead.

*Can you tell me **ahead of time** if you're coming?*

ahead of

He's giving a series of concerts in London ahead of his international tour.

6 ahead of schedule EARLY

earlier than planned or arranged:

I arrived at Jack's suite half an hour ahead of schedule.

7 | progress/success SUCCESSFUL making progress and being successful in your job, education etc:

get/keep/stay ahead

Getting ahead at work is the most important thing to her at the moment.

8 | advanced ADVANCED ideas, achievements etc that are ahead of others have made more progress or are more developed:

*This design is **light years ahead** (= much more advanced) in performance and comfort.*

ahead of your/its time (= very advanced or new, and not understood or accepted)

Coleridge was in many ways far ahead of his time.

9 WINNINGWIN | winning winning in a competition or election:

*Two shots from Gardner **put** the Giants 80 – 75 **ahead**.*

We are 10 points ahead in the polls.

ahead of

At this stage, Smith appeared to be ahead of his rivals.

10 go ahead

a) (spoken) YES

used to tell someone they can do something:

‘Can I have the sports section?’ ‘Yeah, go ahead, I’ve read it.’

b) START DOING SOMETHING

to do something that was planned, especially in spite of a problem:

go ahead with

Frank’ll be late but we’ll go ahead with the meeting anyway.

c)

to take place:

Tests of anti-cancer drugs are to go ahead this year.

→ GO-AHEAD¹

11 ahead of the game/curve CONTROL (informal)

in a position where you are more advanced or more successful than your competitors:

Belmont city leaders have never been ahead of the curve in environmental matters.