

I

1. [led] *n*
 1. *хим.* свинец
lead ore - свинцовая руда
lead plate - свинцовая пластинка
lead plating - освинцовывание
lead spar, lead vitriol - *мин.* свинцовый купорос, англезит
red lead - свинцовый сурик
white lead - свинцовые белила
sheet lead - листовой свинец
as heavy as lead - очень тяжёлый
 2. 1) грузило, отвес
2) *мор.* лот
to cast /to heavē/ the lead - бросать лот, мерить глубину лотом
 3. *сл.* пуля, пули; ≅ девять граммов свинца
lead poison - смерть от пули
a hail of lead - град свинца
to get the lead - быть застреленным, погибнуть от пули
 4. *р/*
 - 1) свинцовые полосы для покрытия крыши
 - 2) покрытая свинцом крыша; плоская крыша
under the leads - на чердаке, под крышей
 5. графит, карандашный грифель
 6. *полигр.* свинец, гарт (*тж.* hard lead)
 7. *р/ полигр.* шпоны
 8. *диал.* котелок, котёл (*из свинца*)
◇ to swing the lead - *мор., воен. жарг.* увилить от работы, симулируя болезнь *и т. п.*
lead balloon - *амер. сл.* неудача; провал
the joke was a lead balloon - эта острота не дошла (*до публики*)
to have lead in one's pants - *амер. сл.* а) двигаться как черепаха; работать лениво; б) быть тугодумом
get the lead out of your pants! - шевелись!, пошевеливайся!, поторапливайся!
2. [led] *v*
 1. *тех.* освинцовывать, покрывать свинцом
 2. *полигр.* разделять шпонами, прокладывать шпоны; набирать на шпоны

II

1. [li:d] *n*
 1. 1) руководство; инициатива
to take the lead - брать на себя руководство, проявлять инициативу
2) пример
to follow the lead of smb. - следовать чьему-л. примеру
to give smb. a lead in smth. - показать кому-л. пример в чём-л., увлечь кого-л. своим примером
 - 3) указание, директива
 - 4) ключ (*к решению чего-л.*); намёк
 - 5) развёрнутый подзаголовок, аннотация (*перед статьёй*)
 - 6) вводная часть
 - 7) первое предложение *или* первый абзац информационной статьи
 - 8) газетная информация помещённая на видном месте
 2. 1) первенство, первое место
in the lead - во главе (*процессии и т. п.*)
to have /to gain/ the lead in a race - занять первое место в состязании
 - 2) *преим. спорт.* преимущество, перевес
to have a lead of several metres [seconds, points] - опередить на несколько метров [секунд, очков]
to have an enormous lead in conventional weapons - иметь огромный перевес в обычных видах оружия
 3. поводок; привязь
the dog was on the lead - собака шла на поводке
 4. *театр., кино*
 - 1) главная роль
 - 2) исполнитель *или* исполнительница главной роли
 5. *карт.*
 - 1) ход; первый ход
whose lead is it? - чей ход?
it is your lead - ваш ход; вам начинать
 - 2) карта, масть (*с которой начинают*)
to return one's partner's lead - а) ходить в масть; б) поддерживать чью-л. инициативу
 6. 1) *разг.* дорожка, тропинка
blind lead - тупик
 - 2) искусственное русло (*ведущее к мельнице*)
 - 3) разводье (*во льдах*); проход (*среди дрейфующих льдов*)

7. 1) **эл.** подводный провод
 - 2) **pl** ошиновка, электропроводка
 - 3) трубопровод; канал
 8. **тех.** шаг или ход (*винта или червяка*)
 9. **тех.** отводной блок
 10. **спорт.** удар
lead for the body [for the face] - удар в туловище [лицо] (*бокс*)
 11. **тех.** центрирующая фаска
 12. **тех.** опережение, предварение (*впуска пара и т. п.*)
 13. **воен.** упреждение, приведение огня (*по движущейся цели*)
lead element - **воен.** головное подразделение
 14. **геол.** жила, жильное месторождение
 15. **геол.** золотоносный песок
 16. **тех.** стрела; укосина
2. [li:d] *v* (*led*)
1. вести; показывать путь
to lead by the hand - вести за руку
to lead a blind man - вести слепого
to lead a horse - вести лошадь в поводу
to lead the way - а) показывать путь; вести за собой; б) сделать первый шаг, проявить инициативу
to lead for landing - **ав.** идти на посадку
 2. руководить, возглавлять; управлять
to lead an army - командовать армией
to lead an expedition - руководить экспедицией
to lead a mutiny - стоять во главе мятежа
to lead a choir - управлять хором
to lead the fashion - быть законодателем мод
to lead for the prosecution [defence] - **юр.** возглавлять обвинение [защиту]
to lead the Conservatives - быть лидером консервативной партии
 3. 1) занимать первое место; быть впереди
to lead the advance - **воен.** двигаться в голове наступающих войск
a brass band led the regiment - впереди полка шёл духовой оркестр
 - 2) **спорт.** идти первым (*в состязании*); вести (*бег*), лидировать
the big chestnut was leading by three lengths - большая гнедая лошадь опередила других на три корпуса
 - 3) **спорт.** вести по очкам; иметь, набрать больше очков
 - 4) превосходить
as an actor he certainly leads - как актёр он, несомненно, не имеет себе равных
 4. вести (*какой-л. образ жизни*)
to lead a good life - вести правильный /примерный/ образ жизни
to lead a miserable existence - владеть жалкое существование
to lead a double life - жить двойной жизнью
 5. 1) вести, приводить
where does this road lead? - куда ведёт эта дорога?
chance led him to London - случай привёл его в Лондон
 - 2) (out of) выходить, сообщаться (*о комнате*)
a bathroom leads out of the bedroom - ванная примыкает к спальне
 6. 1) вести, служить проводом *или* каналом
 - 2) приводить (*к чему-л.*); вызвать (*что-л.*); быть причиной (*чего-л.*), иметь результатом
to lead nowhere - ни к чему не привести, оказаться безрезультатным
to lead to illness - кончиться болезнью
to lead to a poor result - дать незначительные результаты
fear led him to tell lies - страх заставил его лгать
this led to disaster - это привело к катастрофе это было причиной бедствия
this has led me to expect (smth.) - это дало мне основание ожидать (*что-л.*)
 7. 1) убедить, склонить (*к чему-л.*); заставить, повлиять
he may be led but he won't be coerced - его можно убедить, но нельзя принудить
what led you to think so? - что заставило вас так думать?
I am led from all I hear to agree with you - по всему, что я слышал /узнал/, я склонен согласиться с вами
what you say leads me to refuse - то, что вы говорите, заставляет меня отказаться
 - 2) (into) вовлекать (*во что-л.*)
and lead us not into temptation - **библ.** и не введи нас во искушение
 8. **юр.** задавать наводящие вопросы (*свидетелю*)
 9. **карт.** ходить
to lead hearts [spades] - ходить с червей [с пик]
 10. **тех.** опережать
 11. **воен.** упреждать
 12. **шотл. юр.** свидетельствовать; представлять (*доказательства и т. п.*)
◇ to lead smb. a fine /pretty/ dance - заставить кого-л. (поплясать), поманежить кого-л.
to lead smb. by the nose - вести кого-л. на поводу; держать кого-л. в полном подчинении

all roads lead to Rome - *посл.* все дороги ведут в Рим
to lead almost exclusively with one's left - *спорт.* действовать почти исключительно левой рукой
to lead smb. up the garden path - обманывать кого-л.; водить кого-л. за нос

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

lead

• **lead** 1 [lead leads led leading] **verb, noun** *BrE* [ˈliːd] *NAmE* [ˈliːd]

see also ↑lead²

verb (led, led *BrE* [led] ; *NAmE* [led])

SHOW THE WAY

1. intransitive, transitive to go with or in front of a person or an animal to show the way or to make them go in the right direction

Syn: ↑guide

- If you lead, I'll follow.
- ~ **sb/sth + adv./prep.** He led us out into the grounds.
- The receptionist **led the way** to the boardroom.
- She led the horse back into the stable.
- (figurative) I tried to lead the discussion back to the main issue.

CONNECT TWO THINGS

2. intransitive ~ **from/to sth (to/from sth)** to connect one object or place to another

- the pipe leading from the top of the water tank
- The wire led to a speaker.

OF ROAD/PATH/DOOR

3. intransitive, transitive to go in a particular direction or to a particular place

- **+ adv./prep.** A path led up the hill.
- Which door leads to the yard?
- ~ **sb + adv./prep.** The track led us through a wood.

CAUSE

4. intransitive ~ **to sth** to have sth as a result

Syn: result in

- Eating too much sugar can lead to health problems.
- A reward was offered for information leading to an arrest.

5. transitive to be the reason why sb does or thinks sth

- ~ **sb (to sth)** What led you to this conclusion?
- He's too **easily led** (= easily persuaded to do or think sth) .
- ~ **sb to do sth** This has led scientists to speculate on the existence of other galaxies.
- The situation is far worse than we had been **led to believe** .

LIFE

6. transitive ~ **sth** to have a particular type of life

- to lead a quiet life/a life of luxury/a miserable existence

BE BEST/FIRST

7. transitive, intransitive to be the best at sth; to be in first place

- ~ **(sb/sth) (in sth)** The department led the world in cancer research.
- We **lead the way** in space technology.
- ~ **(sb/sth) by sth** The champion is leading (her nearest rival) by 18 seconds.

BE IN CONTROL

8. transitive, intransitive ~ **(sth)** to be in control of sth; to be the leader of sth

- to lead an expedition
- to lead a discussion
- Who will lead the party in the next election?

IN CARD GAMES

9. intransitive, transitive to play first; to play sth as your first card

- It's your turn to lead.
- ~ **sth** to lead the ten of clubs

Syn: ↑mislead, **see** the blind leading the blind **at** ↑blind *adj.*, you can lead/take a horse to water, but you can't make it drink **at**

↑horse *n.*, lead/live the life of Riley **at** ↑life, one thing leads to another **at** ↑thing

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	lead
	BrE /li:d/
	NAme /li:d/
he / she / it	leads
	BrE /li:dz/
	NAme /li:dz/
past simple, past participle	led
	BrE /led/
	NAme /led/
-ing form	leading
	BrE /li:dn/
	NAme /li:dn/

Word Origin:

Old English lædan Germanic Dutch **leiden** German **leiten** ↑load ↑lode

Thesaurus:

lead verb

1. T, I

- The survivors were led to safety.

take • **escort** • **show** • **walk** • **guide** • **usher** • |formal **accompany** •

Opp: follow

lead/take/escort/show/walk/guide/usher/accompany sb **to/out of/into** sth

lead/take/escort/walk/guide/usher/accompany sb **there/somewhere**

lead/take/escort/show/walk/guide sb **round/around**

lead/show **the way**

2. I, T (always used with an adverb or preposition)

- A path leads to the beach.

go • **continue** • **reach** • **stretch** • **extend** •

lead/go/continue/reach/stretch/extend **beyond/across** sth

lead/go/continue/reach/stretch/extend **from** sth **to** sth

3. T

- What led you to this conclusion?

prompt • **make** • **motivate** • |formal **induce** • **predispose** •

lead/predispose sb **to** sth

lead/prompt/motivate/induce/predispose **sb to do sth**

make **sb do sth**

4. I, T

- The champion is leading by 18 seconds.

- They lead the world in cancer research.

be ahead of sb • **leave sb/sth behind** • **get ahead** • **overtake** • **pass** • |written, especially **business outpace** •

Opp: trail

lead/be ahead of sb/leave sb behind/get ahead/overtake **in** sth

lead/be ahead of sb/overtake a **rival**

5. T, I

- He led an expedition to the North Pole.

head • **chair** • **captain** • |formal **preside** • |especially **journalism spearhead** •

lead/head/captain a **team**

lead/head a (political) **party/the government**

lead/head/chair/preside over a/an **commission/committee/inquiry**

Head or lead? A person who **heads** sth has the official position of being the head of it. A person who **leads** sth may also have an official position, but the verb **lead** emphasizes their leadership qualities. An individual usually **heads** sth, but a group of people can **lead** sth.

Language Bank:

cause

X **causes** Y

- Childhood obesity can **cause** ▪ / **lead to** ▪ long-term health problems.

- Changes in lifestyle and diet over the last twenty years have **caused** ▪ / **led to** ▪ / **resulted in** ▪ a sharp increase in childhood obesity.

- Several factors, including changes in diet and lifestyle, **have contributed to** ▪ the increase in childhood obesity.

- Research suggests that fast food and soft drinks directly **contribute to** ▪ childhood obesity.

- Genetics, lifestyle and diet **are** ▪ all important **factors** ▪ in cases of childhood obesity.

- Even small changes in lifestyle and diet can **bring about** ▪ significant weight loss.

Language Banks at ↑**because of**, ↑**consequently**, ↑**therefore**

Synonyms:

take

lead • escort • drive • show • walk • guide • usher • direct

These words all mean to go with sb from one place to another.

take • to go with sb from one place to another, for example in order to show them sth or to show them the way to a place: ▪ It's too far to walk— I'll take you by car.

lead • to go with or go in front of sb in order to show them the way or to make them go in the right direction: ▪ Firefighters led the survivorsto safety.

escort • to go with sb in order to protect or guard them or to show them the way: ▪ The president arrived escorted by twelve bodyguards.

drive • to take sb somewhere in a car, taxi, etc: ▪ My mother drove us to the airport.

show • to take sb to a particular place, in the right direction, or along the correct route: ▪ The attendant showed us to our seats.

walk • to go somewhere with sb on foot, especially in order to make sure that they get there safely; to take an animal, especially a dog, for a walk or make an animal walk somewhere: ▪ He always walked her home. ◊▪ Have you walked the dog yet today?

guide • to show sb the way to a place, often by going with them; to show sb a place that you know well: ▪ She guided us through the busy streets. ◊▪ We were guided around the museums.

usher • (rather formal) to politely take or show sb where they should go, especially within a building: ▪ She ushered her guests to their seats.

direct • (rather formal) to tell or show sb how to get somewhere or where to go: ▪ A young woman directed them to the station.

to take/lead/escort/drive/show/walk/guide/usher/direct sb **to/out of/into** sth

to take/lead/escort/drive/show/walk/guide sb **around/round**

to take/lead/escort/drive/walk sb **home**

to take/lead/escort/guide sb **to safety**

to lead/show **the way**

Example Bank:

- 'Lead on!' said Arnold.
- An old track led back through the wood.
- Business success does not automatically lead to financial success.
- Discussion of a client's tax affairs will lead naturally into consideration of investment options.
- Five people helping to lead a convoy of aid are feared dead.
- I tried to lead as normal a life as possible.
- Industrialization inevitably led to the expansion of the urban working class.
- Let me lead the way.
- Often there are discoveries which lead nowhere.
- She led them along a dark corridor to a small room.
- Some children are easily led.
- Such actions would most likely lead to the decline of rural communities.
- Sugar and fat can easily lead to obesity.
- Sugar and fat can more easily lead to obesity than some other foods.
- The carbon tax might well lead to a doubling of prices for fossil fuels.
- The gardens lead directly onto a beach.
- The glass doors lead out onto a rooftop garden.
- The use of soft drugs does not necessarily lead to a progression to hard drugs.
- These measures in turn led to an increased opportunity for independent music production.
- Worrying about your weight is more likely to lead to comforting yourself with a piece of chocolate.
- Worrying about your weight is more likely to lead to low self-esteem.
- You lead the way and we'll follow.
- a path leading from the village to the old church
- the events that led eventually to war
- Detective Inspector Adrian Eakins, who is leading the hunt for the killer, has called a press conference.
- Disconnect the pipe leading from the top of the water tank.
- Firefighters led the survivorsto safety.
- He led the first expedition to the North Pole.
- He led the race for eight laps until his engine blew.
- If you lead, I'll follow.
- She is leading her nearest rival by 18 seconds.
- The campaign for the ban had been led by Greenpeace and the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- The firm's solid construction standards still lead the field.
- The project is run by a team of experts led by Andrew Hall.
- The situation is far worse than we had been led to believe.
- This has led scientists to speculate on the existence life on other planets.
- Top management should be seen to lead by example.
- What we found leads us to suspect that more people may be involved
- Who will lead the party into the next election?

Idioms: ↑lead from the front ▪ ↑lead nowhere ▪ ↑lead somebody a dance ▪ ↑lead somebody by the nose ▪ ↑lead somebody up the garden path

Derived ↑lead off ▪ ↑lead off something ▪ ↑lead somebody on ▪ ↑lead something off ▪ ↑lead up to something ▪ ↑lead with something

FIRST PLACE

1. **the lead** **singular** the position ahead of everyone else in a race or competition

- She **took the lead** in the second lap.
- He has gone **into the lead** .
- The Democrats now appear to be **in the lead** .
- to **hold/lose the lead**
- The lead car is now three minutes ahead of the rest of the field.

2. **singular** ~ (**over sb/sth**) the amount or distance that sb/sth is in front of sb/sth else

Syn: ↑**advantage**

- He managed to **hold a lead** of two seconds over his closest rival.
- The polls have given Labour a five-point **lead**.
- a **commanding/comfortable lead**
- to **increase/widen your lead**
- Manchester lost their early two-goal **lead**.

EXAMPLE

3. **singular** an example or action for people to copy

- If one bank raises interest rates, all the others will **follow their lead** .
- If we **take the lead** in this (= start to act) , others may follow.
- You go first, I'll take my **lead** from you.

INFORMATION

4. **countable** a piece of information that may help to find out the truth or facts about a situation, especially a crime

Syn: ↑**clue**

- The police will **follow up** all possible **leads** .

ACTOR/MUSICIAN

5. **countable** the main part in a play, film/movie, etc; the person who plays this part

- Who is **playing the lead** ?
- the **male/female lead**
- a lead role
- the lead singer in a band

FOR DOG

6. (BrE) (*also* **leash** NAmE, BrE) **countable** a long piece of leather, chain or rope used for holding and controlling a dog

- Dogs must be kept on a **lead** in the park.

FOR ELECTRICITY

7. **countable** (BrE) a long piece of wire, usually covered in plastic, that is used to connect a piece of electrical equipment to a source of electricity

see also ↑**extension lead**, ↑**jump lead**

Word Origin:

Old English lædan Germanic Dutch **leiden** German **leiten** ↑**load** ↑**lode**

Thesaurus:

lead **noun**

1. **the lead** **sing.**

- The Democrats are in the **lead**.

the front • • **the forefront** • • **the foreground** • • **the fore** •
in the lead/forefront/foreground

2. **sing.**

- She has a narrow **lead** over the other runners.

advantage • • **edge** • • **the upper hand** • • **head start** •

a lead/an advantage/an edge/the upper hand/a head start **over** sb

a lead/an advantage/an edge/the upper hand/a head start **in** sth

have/give sb a lead/an advantage/an edge/the upper hand/a head start

Example Bank:

- Did you find any **leads** when you searched it?
- Dogs must be kept on a **lead** in this park.
- For the time being, China has a solid **lead** over India.
- He had opened up a small **lead** over his opponent.
- He said that he has a **lead** as to where Dylan may be.
- Her big break came when she was chosen to play the **lead** in a Broadway musical.
- Houston increased their **lead** to 13–7
- It turned out to be a false **lead**.
- Let the dog off the **lead**.

- She has a narrow lead over the other runners.
- She sings lead on four tracks.
- Sheffield increased their lead just before half time.
- Some promising leads are already emerging.
- That game puts her back into the lead.
- The government should give a lead in tackling racism.
- The police are following every possible lead.
- The team has now built up a commanding lead.
- They have several solid leads in their investigation.
- They regained the lead with only a few minutes left to play.
- They took an early lead.
- This win gives the team a two-point lead over their closest rival.
- We should follow their lead in banning chemical weapons.
- We were struggling to stay in the lead.
- corporations that have chosen to take the lead on the privacy issue
- leads on the murderer's identity
- Both Christine and Fiona want the lead role.
- Give your dog a period of exercise off the lead.
- He gradually extended his lead in the second half of the race to win by 49 seconds.
- I always dreamed of becoming the lead singer in a band.
- If one bank raises interest rates, others will follow their lead.
- Intellectuals took the lead in criticism of the government
- Sixth-formers are seen to give the lead to younger students.
- The battery's flat— have you got any jump leads?
- The country is yearning for a firm moral lead.
- The report did not provide a clear lead for the improvement of training.
- The yacht quickly established a one-mile lead over the nearest rival.
- They took a 3–0 lead in the first leg of the semi-final.
- We have to keep him on a tight lead when there are other dogs around.
- We'll have to use an extension lead.
- Who is playing the lead?
- You go first, I'll take my lead from you.

See also: [↑leash](#)

• **||.** **lead** 2 [lead leads led leading] *BrE* [led] ^m *NAmE* [led] ^m noun
 see also [↑lead](#) 1

1. **uncountable** (*symp.* **Pb**) a chemical element. **Lead** is a heavy soft grey metal, used especially in the past for water pipes or to cover roofs.

2. **countable, uncountable** the thin black part of a pencil that marks paper

more at swing the lead [at](#) [↑swing](#) *v.*

Idiom: [↑go down like a lead balloon](#)

Word Origin:

Old English *lēad* West Germanic Dutch *lood* 'lead' German *Lot* 'plummet, solder'

Example Bank:

- Lead exposure can be harmful to everyone, especially young children and babies.

lead

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **lead** 1 **S1 W1** /liːd/ *BrE* ^m *AmE* ^m *verb* (past tense and past participle **led** /led/)

[Word Family: noun: lead, [↑leader](#), [↑leadership](#); adjective: lead, [↑leading](#); verb: [↑lead](#)]

[Language: Old English; Origin: *lædan*]

1. **TAKE SOMEBODY SOMEWHERE** [*intransitive and transitive*] to take someone somewhere by going in front of them while they follow, or by pulling them gently

lead somebody to/into etc something

" A nurse took her arm and led her to a chair.

" The horses were led to safety.

lead somebody away/down etc

" She was led away from the courtroom in tears.

" The manager led the way through the office.

2. **GO IN FRONT** [*intransitive and transitive*] to go in front of a line of people or vehicles:

" A firetruck was leading the parade.

3. **BE IN CHARGE** [*intransitive and transitive*] to be in charge of an organization, country, or team, or a group of people who are trying to do something:

" He has led the party for over twenty years.

" Some people say she is too old to lead the country (=be in charge of its government).

" Beckham led his team to victory.

lead an investigation/inquiry/campaign

- " The investigation will be led by Inspector Scarfe.
 - " They are leading a campaign to warn teenagers about the dangers of drug abuse.
- lead a revolt/rebellion/coup etc**
- " The rebellion was led by the King's brother.
- lead an attack/assault**
- " Nelson preferred to lead the attack himself from the front.
 - " a man who was born to lead
 - " a communist-led strike
- 4. CAUSE SOMETHING TO HAPPEN [intransitive and transitive]** to cause something to happen or cause someone to do something
- lead to**
- " the events that led to the start of the First World War
 - " A degree in English could lead to a career in journalism.
- lead somebody into something**
- " Her trusting nature often led her into trouble.
- lead somebody to do something**
- " What led him to kill his wife?
- lead to somebody doing something**
- " His actions could lead to him losing his job.
- 5. CAUSE SOMEBODY TO BELIEVE SOMETHING [transitive]** to make someone believe something, especially something that is not true
- lead somebody to believe/expect/understand something**
- " He had led everyone to believe that his family was very wealthy.
 - " The hotel was terrible, and not at all what we had been led to expect.
 - " Our research led us to the conclusion that the present system is unfair.
- 6. INFLUENCE [transitive]** to influence someone to make them do something that is wrong
- lead somebody into something**
- " His brother led him into a life of crime.
 - " He's not a bad boy. He's just easily led (=it is easy for other people to persuade him to do things that he should not do).
- 7. BE MORE SUCCESSFUL [transitive]** to be more successful than other people, companies, or countries in a particular activity
- lead the world/market/pack/field**
- " US companies lead the world in biotechnology.
- lead the way (=be the first to do something, and show other people how to do it)**
- " The Swedes have led the way in data protection. ⇒ [↑]leading¹(1)
- 8. BE WINNING [intransitive and transitive]** to be winning a game, competition etc **OPP lose:**
- " At half-time, Brazil led 1–0.
 - " With 15 laps to go, Schumacher led the race.
 - " The polls showed Clinton leading Bush 55 percent to 34 percent.
- lead by ten points/two goals etc**
- " Nadal was leading by two sets.
- 9. PATH/DOOR ETC [intransitive, transitive always + adverb/preposition]** used to say where a path, wire etc goes or what place is on the other side of a door
- lead to/towards**
- " The path led down to a small lake.
- lead from/out of**
- " the major artery leading from the heart
- lead into**
- " the door leading into the hallway
- lead somebody to/into something**
- " The riverside path leads visitors to a small chapel.
- 10. LIFE [transitive]** if you lead a particular kind of life, that is what your life is like
- lead a normal/quiet/busy etc life**
- " If the operation succeeds, Carly will be able to lead a normal life.
 - " He has led a charmed life (=been very fortunate).
- lead a life of luxury/poverty etc**
- lead the life of a ...**
- " She now leads the life of a recluse.
- lead a double life (=deceive people by keeping different parts of your life separate and not letting anyone know the whole truth)**
- " Joe had been leading a double life, seeing an ex-model while his wife believed he was on business.
 - " They lead a nomadic existence.
- 11. DISCUSSION ETC [transitive always + adverb/preposition]** to control the way a discussion, conversation etc develops:
- " I tried to lead the conversation back to the subject of money.
- 12. lead somebody up the garden path informal** to deliberately deceive someone
- 13. lead somebody astray**
- a) to encourage someone to do bad or immoral things which they would not normally do
 - b) to make someone believe something that is not true
- 14. lead nowhere /not lead anywhere** to not produce any useful result:
- " So far police investigations seem to have led nowhere.
- 15. lead by example** to show the people you are in charge of what you want them to do by doing it yourself:
- " The best managers lead by example.

16. **lead somebody by the nose** to influence someone so much that you can completely control everything that they do:

Politicians think they can easily lead people by the nose.

17. **this/that leads (me) to something** used to introduce a new subject that is connected to the previous one:

That leads me to my final point. Where are we going to get the money?

18. **somebody has their own life to lead** used to say that someone wants to be able to live their life independently, without having to do things that other people want them to do

19. **lead somebody a merry old dance/a right old dance** *British English* to cause a lot of problems or worries for someone

20. **market-led/export-led etc** most influenced by the market, by ↑exports etc:

an export-led economic recovery

21. **lead the eye** if a picture, view etc leads the eye in a particular direction, it makes you look in that direction:

marble columns that lead the eye upward

22. **CARD GAME** [*intransitive and transitive*] to play a particular card as your first card in one part of a card game

• • •

THESAURUS

- **lead** to take a person or animal somewhere by going in front of them while they follow, or by pulling them gently: Rachel led Jo into the kitchen. | She was leading a horse, which seemed to have a bad leg.
- **take** to take someone somewhere with you when you have the transport, know the way, are paying etc: I took her to see a film. | Matt's taking me in his car.
- **guide** to take someone through or to a place you know, showing them the way: Ali guided us through the streets to his house on the edge of the town.
- **show** to take someone to a place such as a table in a restaurant or a hotel room and leave them there: A waitress showed us to our table. | We were shown to our seats near the front of the theatre.
- **point** to show someone which direction to go using your hand or a sign: The sign back there pointed this way.
- **escort** to take someone somewhere, protecting them, guarding them, or showing them the way: He was escorted from the court by police. | The President's car will be escorted by a military convoy.
- **usher** to show someone the way to a room or building nearby, usually as part of your job: His housekeeper ushered us into the living room.
- **shepherd** to carefully take someone somewhere – used especially about a group of people: The police shepherded thousands of people to safety in the cathedral.
- **direct** *formal* to tell someone where to go or how to get somewhere: He directed us to a cafe a few blocks away. | Can you direct me to the station?

lead off *phrasal verb*

1. to start a meeting, discussion, performance etc by saying or doing something:

I'd like to lead off by thanking Rick for coming.

lead off with

The French team led off with two quick goals in the first five minutes.

lead something ↔ off

Hal led the evening off with some folk songs.

2. **lead off (something)** if a road, room etc leads off a place, you can go directly from that place along that road, into that room etc

lead off from something

He pointed down a street leading off from the square.

a large room, with doors leading off it in all directions

3. to be the first player to try to hit the ball in an ↑inning (=period of play) in a game of baseball

lead somebody on *phrasal verb*

to deceive someone, especially to make them think you love them:

He thought she loved him, but in fact she was just leading him on.

lead on to something (also lead onto something) *phrasal verb especially British English*

to cause something to develop or become possible at a later time:

Alan Turing's work led on to the development of modern computers.

lead with something *phrasal verb*

1. if a newspaper or television programme leads with a particular story, that story is the main one:

The Washington Post leads with the latest news from Israel.

2. to use a particular hand to begin an attack in ↑boxing, or a particular foot to begin a dance:

Adam led with his left and punched his opponent on the jaw.

lead up to something *phrasal verb [not in passive]*

1. if a series of events or a period of time leads up to an event, it comes before it or causes it:

the weeks that led up to her death

the events leading up to his dismissal

2. to gradually introduce an embarrassing, upsetting, or surprising subject into a conversation:

She had already guessed what he was leading up to.

II. lead² *S2 W2 BrE AmE noun*

1. **the lead** the first position in a race or competition:

She was in the lead from start to finish.

The Canadians went into the lead after only 30 seconds.

The goal put Holland into the lead.

The Bears took the lead for the first time this season.

2. [*singular*] the amount or distance by which one competitor is ahead of another:

The Chicago Bulls had a narrow lead (=were winning by a small number of points).

lead over

The Socialists now have a commanding lead over their opponents.

3. [singular] if someone follows someone else's lead, they do the same as the other person has done:
 - " Other countries are likely to follow the U.S.'s lead.
 - " The Government should give industry a lead in tackling racism (=show what other people should do).
 - " The black population in the 1960s looked to Ali for a lead (=looked to him to show them what they should do).
4. **take the lead (in doing something)** to be the first to start doing something or be most active in doing something:
 - " The U.S. took the lead in declaring war on terrorism.
5. [countable] a piece of information that may help you to solve a crime or mystery **SYN clue**:
 - " The police have checked out dozens of leads, but have yet to find the killer.
6. [countable] the main acting part in a play, film etc, or the main actor
 - play the lead/the lead role**
 - " He will play the lead role in Hamlet.
 - " Powers was cast in the lead role (=he was chosen to play it).
 - the male/female lead**
 - " They were having trouble casting the female lead.
 - " the film's romantic lead
7. **lead singer/guitarist etc** the main singer, ↑guitarist etc in a group
 - lead singer/guitarist etc of/with**
 - " the lead singer of Nirvana
8. [countable] **British English** a piece of rope, leather, or chain for holding or controlling a dog **SYN leash**
 - on a lead**
 - " All dogs must be kept on a lead.
9. [countable] **British English** a wire used to connect a piece of electrical equipment to the power supply **SYN cord** **American English** ⇒ ↑jump leads

...

COLLOCATIONS

■ verbs

- **be in the lead** He was in the lead after the first lap of the race.
- **have the lead** He has a one-shot lead in the golf tournament.
- **take the lead** (=start being in the lead instead of someone else) Lewis Hamilton has just taken the lead in the Monaco Grand Prix.
- **put somebody in the lead** (=make someone be in the lead) Ronaldo's goal put Portugal in the lead.
- **give somebody the lead** (=make someone be in the lead) A goal in the 10th minute gave England the lead.
- **extend/increase/stretch sb's lead** (=make the lead bigger) The Australian rugby team extended its lead with a try from Stirling Mortlock.
- **throw away a lead** (=to lose the lead) Arsenal threw away a two-goal lead.
- **blow a lead** *informal* (=to lose the lead) They managed to blow a 22-point lead.
- **share the lead** (=when more than one player or team is in the lead) At the end of the first round, two golfers share the lead.

■ ADJECTIVES/NOUN + lead

- **a big lead** The Bruins had a big lead at half-time.
- **a clear lead** The ruling Labour Party has a clear lead in the opinion polls.
- **a comfortable lead** (=a big lead) The Wildcats had a comfortable lead in the first half.
- **a commanding lead** (=a big lead) Alonso raced into a commanding lead.
- **an early lead** (=a lead early in a game, election etc) Liverpool took an early lead with a goal from Steven Gerrard.
- **a one-shot/two-goal/three point etc lead** (=a lead of a specific amount) Goals by Keane and Lennon gave Tottenham a two-goal lead.

III. lead³ /led/ BrE³ AmE³ noun



1. [uncountable] a soft heavy grey metal that melts easily and is poisonous, used to cover roofs, or in the past, for water pipes. It is a chemical ↑element: symbol Pb
2. [uncountable and countable] the central part of a pencil that makes the marks when you write
3. **go down like a lead balloon** *informal* if a suggestion or joke goes down like a lead balloon, people do not like it at all
4. [uncountable] **American English old-fashioned** bullets:
 - " They filled him full of lead.
5. **leads** [plural]
 - a) sheets of lead used for covering a roof
 - b) narrow pieces of lead used for holding small pieces of glass together to form a window

lead
12500 **270**^{MCW}

15000 **128**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** LEAD 297675

lead 59304

leader 40209

leaders 50325

leadership 31717

leading 36208

leads 18761

mislead 573

misleading 3379

misleadingly 89

misled 1162

led 55948

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

19736 **1591**²⁶⁵⁵³ *vvi*

13684 **1910**²²⁴⁸⁶ *nn1*

7951 **4227**⁹⁴⁸⁴ *vv0*

583 **27455**⁶⁴⁷ *vvn*

98 **76152**⁹⁹ *vvd*

15 **177846**²⁰ *nnu*

15 **205735**¹⁵ *jj*