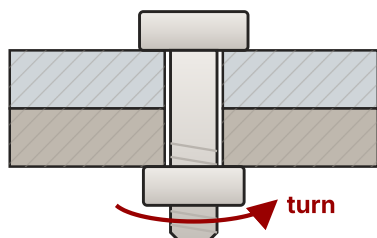


Bolt, Screw or Stud?

jandesupply.com/guide-bolt-screw-stud.php

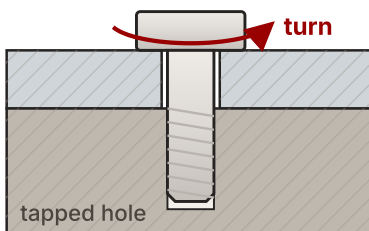
Three words that get used loosely — here's the real difference in about a minute, so you ask for the right thing and we hand you the right thing.

People use these names loosely, and at the counter we know what you mean either way. But the real difference comes down to one thing: **how the fastener is held and tightened.**



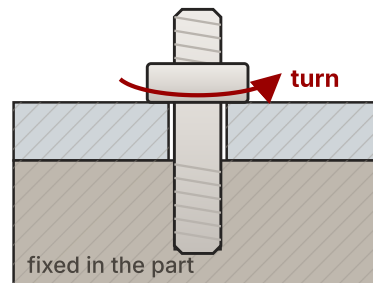
BOLT

through, held by a nut



SCREW

into the part itself



STUD

no head, nuts clamp

Cut-away views. The red arrow marks the part you turn.



Bolt

A headed fastener that passes **through** the parts and is held by a **nut** on the other side. The bolt usually stays still while the nut is turned to clamp things together.

Tightened by: the nut (bolt held)



Screw

A headed fastener that threads **into** the material itself — a tapped hole, or threads it cuts as it goes. No nut needed. You turn the screw by its head to drive and tighten it.

Tightened by: the head (turns into the part)



Stud

A length of threaded rod with **no head** — threaded on both ends or all the way along. One end anchors into a part or stays fixed; nuts go on to clamp. Common where you need to slide a part on, then secure it.

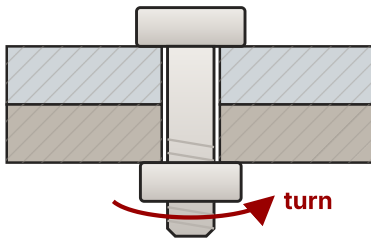
Tightened by: nuts on the ends

So why does “hex cap screw” exist?

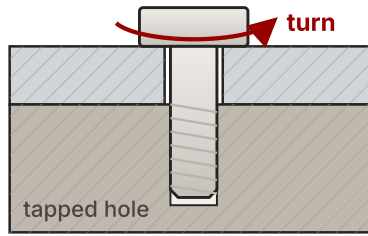
Same part, two names. Most people say **hex bolt**; catalogs and standards say **hex cap screw**. The name follows how it's *used*, not the part itself:



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ACTING AS A BOLT
with a nut



ACTING AS A SCREW
into a tapped hole

So don't overthink it. Tell us what you're doing — "going through with a nut" or "threading into a block" — and we'll match the right part, whichever word you use.

One thing that does matter: whether you need a **nut** with it. Tell us if you're using a nut (and whether you need washers too), and we'll make sure the threads and grade all match across the set.

The quick test

What holds it tight?

A nut on the far side

→ **Bolt**

It threads into the part — you
turn the head

→ **Screw**

No head — nuts on the ends

→ **Stud**

That one question sorts out almost every case.



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