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I reading

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bark *verb*
1 a dog or fox barks when it makes its special sound **2** you can say a person barks when they speak loudly or sharply

barley *noun*
a kind of grain which is used for food and to make beer

bar mitzvah *noun*
a religious ceremony for Jewish boys who have reached the age of 13, when they accept some of the responsibilities of an adult. The ceremony for a girl is called a **bat mitzvah**

barn *noun*
a building on a farm used to store things such as grain or hay

barnacle *noun*
a shellfish that attaches itself to rocks and the bottoms of ships

barometer *noun* (*say* ba-**rom**-it-er)
an instrument that measures air pressure, used in forecasting the weather

baron *noun*
a member of the lowest rank of noblemen

baroness *noun*
a female baron or a baron's wife

barracks *noun*
the buildings where soldiers live

barrage *noun* (*say* **ba**-rahzh)
1 heavy gunfire **2** a large amount of something • *We received a barrage of complaints.* **3** a dam or barrier built across a river to make the water deeper

barrel *noun*
1 a large container for liquids, with curved sides and flat ends **2** the metal tube of a gun, through which the shot is fired

barren *adjective*
barren land or plants cannot produce any crops or fruit

barricade *noun*
a barrier, especially one put up quickly to block a street

barricade *verb*
to barricade a place is to block or defend it with a barrier

barrier *noun*
a fence or wall put up to stop people getting past

barrister *noun*
a lawyer who argues legal cases in the higher courts

barrow *noun*
1 a small cart **2** an ancient mound of earth over a grave

barter *verb*
to barter is to exchange goods for other goods, without using money

base *noun*
1 the lowest part of something, or the part on which something stands **2** a place from which an organization like an army or business is controlled

base *verb*
to base one thing on another thing is to use the second thing as the starting point for the first • *She based the story on an event in her own childhood.*

baseball *noun*
1 baseball is an American game like rounders, in which the players hit a ball and run round a series of four 'bases' to score points **2** a baseball is the ball used in this game

basement *noun*
a room or part of a building below ground level

bash *verb*
(*informal*) to bash someone or something is to hit them hard

bashful *adjective*
shy

basic *adjective*
forming the first or most important part • *He has a basic knowledge of French.* • *Food is a basic human need.*

basically *adverb*
in the most important ways; essentially • *She is basically lazy.*

basin *noun*
1 a deep bowl for mixing food in **2** a large container to hold water for washing your face and hands in **3** a river basin is the area of land where the river's water comes from

basis *noun* (**bases**)
1 the basis of something is what you start from or add to • *These players will be the basis of a new team.* **2** a basis is the way in which something is arranged or organized • *You will be paid on a monthly basis.*

bask *verb*
to bask is to lie or sit comfortably warming yourself in the sun

basket *noun*
a container made of strips of wood, cane or wire woven together

basketball *noun*
1 basketball is a team game in which players try to throw a large ball through a high net hanging from a hoop **2** a basketball is the ball used in this game

bass *adjective* (*say* bayss)
forming the lowest sounds in music

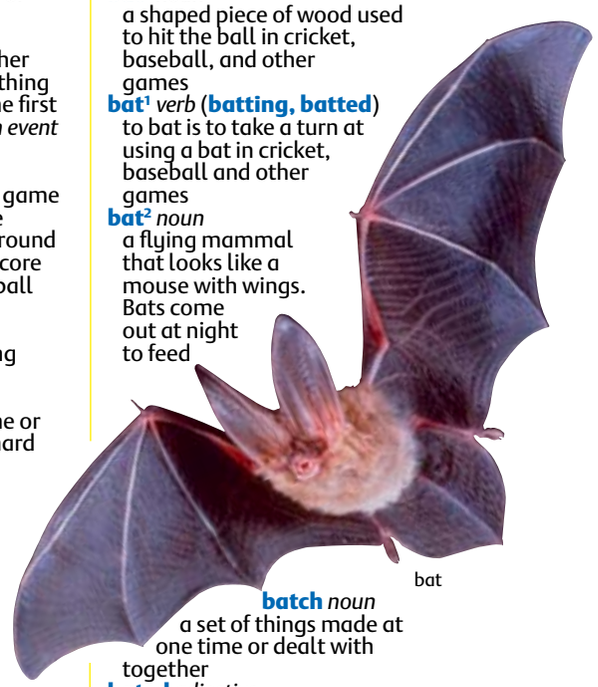
bass *noun* (*say* bayss)
a bass singer or instrument

bassoon *noun*
a woodwind instrument that plays low notes

bat[1] *noun*
a shaped piece of wood used to hit the ball in cricket, baseball, and other games

bat[1] *verb* (**batting, batted**)
to bat is to take a turn at using a bat in cricket, baseball and other games

bat[2] *noun*
a flying mammal that looks like a mouse with wings. Bats come out at night to feed


bat

batch *noun*
a set of things made at one time or dealt with together

bated *adjective*
with bated breath waiting anxiously

bath *noun*
1 a bath is a large container you fill with water and get into to wash yourself **2** a bath sometimes means the water in a bath • *Your bath is getting cold.* **3** the baths are also a public swimming pool

bath *verb*
1 to bath someone is to give them a bath **2** to bath is to have a bath

bathe *verb*
1 to bathe is to go swimming in the sea or a river **2** to bathe a sore part of your body is to wash it gently

bathe *noun*
a bathe is a swim

bathroom *noun*
a room for having a bath or wash in

bat mitzvah *noun*
a religious ceremony for Jewish girls who have reached the age of 12, when they accept some of the responsibilities of an adult. The ceremony for a boy is called a **bar mitzvah**

baton *noun*
a short stick, especially one you use to conduct an orchestra or in a relay race

batsman *noun* (**batsmen**)
a player who uses a bat in cricket

batter *verb*
to batter someone or something is to hit them hard and often • *The huge waves battered the rocks.*

batter *noun*
batter is a mixture of flour, eggs, and milk beaten together and used to make pancakes or to coat food before you fry it

battery *noun* (**batteries**)
1 a portable device for storing and supplying electricity **2** a series of cages in which animals are kept close together on a farm • *Free-range hens are not kept in batteries.* **3** a set of devices that are used together, especially a group of large guns

battle *noun*
1 a fight between two armies **2** a struggle

battlefield *noun*
a place where a battle is or was fought

battlements *plural noun*
the top of a castle wall, usually with gaps for firing arrows

battleship *noun*
a large warship armed with powerful guns

bawl *verb*
to bawl is to shout or cry loudly

bay *noun*
1 a place by the sea or a lake where the shore curves inwards **2** an area that is marked out to be used for parking vehicles, storing things, etc. **to keep someone at bay** is to prevent them from coming near you

bayonet *noun*
a steel blade that can be fixed to the end of a rifle and used for stabbing

bazaar *noun*
1 a sale held to raise money for charity **2** a covered market in an Eastern country

BC
short for *before Christ*, used with dates that come before the birth of Jesus Christ • *Julius Caesar came to Britain in 55 BC.*

be *verb* (**I am**; **you are**; **he, she,** or **it is**; **they are**; **I, he, she,** or **it was**, **you were**, **they were**; **I, you,** or **they have been**; **he, she,** or **it has been**)
1 to be is to exist or happen • *There is a bus stop at the corner.* • *The final is on Saturday.* **2** to be someone or something is to have that position or quality • *She is my teacher.* • *You are very tall.*

beach *noun*
the strip of pebbles or sand close to the sea

beacon *noun*
a light or fire used as a warning signal

bead *noun*
1 a small piece of glass, wood, or plastic with a hole through it, threaded on a string or wire to make a necklace or bracelet **2** a small drop of liquid • *She had beads of sweat on her face.*


beads

beady *adjective* (**beadier, beadiest**)
beady eyes are small and bright

beak *noun*
the hard, horny part of a bird's mouth

beaker *noun*
1 a tall drinking mug, usually without a handle **2** a glass container used for pouring liquids in a science laboratory

beam *noun*
1 a long, thick bar of wood or metal **2** a ray of light or other radiation

beam *verb*
1 to beam is to send out a beam of light or radio waves **2** you can say a person beams when they smile very happily

bean *noun*
1 a kind of plant with seeds growing in pods **2** the seed or pod of this kind of plant, eaten as food

bear[1] *verb* (**bore, born** or **borne**)
1 to bear something is to carry or support it **2** to bear something is to put up with it or suffer it • *I can't bear all this noise.* **3** a woman bears children when she gives birth to them • *She has borne three sons.*

bear[2] *noun*
a large heavy animal with thick fur and sharp hooked claws

bearable *adjective*
something that is bearable is something you are able to put up with • *His toothache was hardly bearable.*

beard *noun*
hair on the lower part of a man's face **bearded** *adjective* a bearded man is a man with a beard

bearing *noun*
1 your bearing is the way you stand and walk **2** the direction or position of something in relation to something else **to lose your bearings** is to forget where you are in relation to other things

beast *noun*
1 any large four-footed animal **2** (*informal*) a person you think is cruel or unkind

beat *verb* (**beating, beat, beaten**)
1 to beat someone or something is to hit them repeatedly, especially with a stick **2** to beat someone in a game or match is to do better than them and win it **3** to beat a cooking mixture is to stir it quickly so that it becomes thicker **4** to beat something is to shape or flatten it by hitting it many times **5** to beat is also to make regular movements like your heart does **to beat someone up** is to attack them very violently

beat *noun*
1 a regular rhythm or stroke, like your heart makes **2** a strong rhythm in pop music **3** the regular route of a police officer

beautiful *adjective*
very pleasing to look at or listen to **beautifully** *adverb*

beauty *noun* (**beauties**)
1 beauty is a quality that gives delight or pleasure, especially to your senses • *They enjoyed the beauty of the sunset.* **2** a beauty is a particularly beautiful person or thing

beaver *noun*
1 a brown furry animal with strong teeth and a long flat tail, which builds dams in rivers **2** a member of the most junior section of the Scout Association

because *conjunction*
for the reason that • *We were happy because it was a holiday.* **because of someone or something** for that reason; on account of them • *He limped because of his bad leg.*

beckon *verb*
to beckon to someone is to make a sign asking them to come to you

become *verb* (**becoming, became, become**)
to become is to start being something described • *It gradually became darker.*

bed *noun*
1 a bed is a piece of furniture for sleeping on **2** bed is the place where you sleep • *I'm going to bed now.* **3** a bed is also a part of a garden where plants are grown

4 the bed of the sea or of a river is the bottom of it

bedclothes *plural noun*
sheets, blankets, and duvets for using on a bed

bedding *noun*
things for making a bed, such as sheets, blankets, and duvets

bedraggled *adjective*
(*say* bi-**drag**-uld)
wet and dirty

bedroom *noun*
a room where you sleep

bedside *noun*
the space beside a bed, especially the bed of someone who is ill • *He sat by his son's bedside all night.*

bedspread *noun*
a covering put over the top of a bed

bedtime *noun*
the time when you are supposed to go to bed

bee *noun*
a stinging insect that makes honey


bee

beech *noun*
a tree with smooth bark and glossy leaves

beef *noun*
the meat of an ox, bull, or cow

beefburger *noun*
a hamburger

beehive *noun*
a container for bees to live in

beer *noun*
beer is an alcoholic drink made from malt and hops

beet *noun* (**beet** or **beets**)
beet is a plant used as a vegetable or for making sugar

beetle *noun*
an insect with hard, shiny covers over its wings

beetroot *noun* (**beetroot**)
the dark red root of beet used as a vegetable

before *adverb, preposition*
1 earlier, or earlier than • *Have you been here before?* • *They came the day before yesterday.* **2** in front of • *He stood up before the whole school.*

beforehand *adverb*
earlier, or before something else happens • *She had tried to phone me beforehand.* • *Let me know beforehand if you want to come on the picnic.*

beg *verb* (**begging, begged**)
1 to beg is to ask people to give you money or food **2** to beg someone is to ask them seriously or desperately • *He begged me not to tell the teacher.*

beggar *noun*
someone who lives by begging in the street

begin *verb* (**beginning, began, begun**)
to begin something is to start doing it

beginner *noun*
someone who is just starting to learn or is still learning a subject

beginning *noun*
the start of something

behalf *noun*
on behalf of something to help a cause • *They were collecting money on behalf of cancer research.* **on someone's behalf** for them or in their name • *Will you accept the prize on my behalf?*

behave *verb*
1 to act in a certain way • *My sister has been behaving very strangely recently.* **2** to show good manners • *Why can't you behave?*

behaviour *noun*
1 your behaviour is the way you behave **2** animal behaviour is the way animals normally behave and treat one another

behind *adverb, preposition*
1 at or to the back • *The others are a long way behind.* • *She hid behind a tree.* **2** not making good progress • *He's behind the rest of the class in French.* **3** supporting or encouraging • *We're all behind you.* **behind someone's back** without them knowing about it

behind *noun*
your behind is your bottom • *He kicked me on the behind.*

beige *noun, adjective* (*say* bayzh)
a light yellowish-brown colour

being *noun*
a being is a person or creature of any kind

belch *verb*
1 to belch is to make a noise by letting air come up from your stomach through your mouth **2** a chimney or factory belches smoke or fumes when it sends out thick smoke or fumes into the air

belch *noun*
the act or sound of belching

belfry *noun* (**belfries**)
the top part of a tower or steeple, in which bells hang

belief *noun*
1 a belief is something you believe • *They have very few beliefs.* **2** belief is when you believe something

believe *verb*
1 to believe something is to think that it is true **2** to believe someone is to think that they are telling the truth **3** to believe in something is to think it is real or important • *Do you believe in ghosts?*


bell

believable *adjective* something is believable when you are able to believe it

believer *noun* someone who believes in God

bell *noun*
a device that makes a ringing sound, especially a cup-shaped metal object that rings when it is struck

bellow *verb*
to bellow is to roar or shout loudly and deeply

bellows *plural noun*
bellows are a device for blowing out air, especially into a fire to make it burn more strongly

belly *noun* (**bellies**)
1 the abdomen or the stomach of a human **2** the part underneath the body of a four-legged animal

belong *verb*
1 to belong to someone is to be their property • *The pencil belongs to me.* **2** to belong to a club or group is to be a member of it • *We both belong to the tennis club.* **3** to belong somewhere is to have a special place where it goes • *The butter belongs in the fridge.*

belongings *plural noun*
your belongings are the things that you own

beloved *adjective*
(*say* bi-**luvd** or *say* bi-**luv**-id)
greatly loved

below *preposition*
lower than, under • *We have nice neighbours in the flat below us.*

below *adverb*
at a lower point, or to a lower point • *I'll have the top bunk, and you can sleep below.*

belt *noun*
1 a strip of material, often leather or cloth, that you wear round your waist **2** a long narrow area • *The path ran through a belt of woodland.*

belt *verb*
(*informal*) **1** to belt someone is to hit them hard **2** to belt along is to move very fast

bench *noun*
1 a long seat **2** a long table for working at

bend *verb* (**bending, bent**)
1 to bend something is to make it curved or crooked **2** to bend is to become curved or crooked • *The trees were bending in the wind.* **3** to bend is also to move the top of your body downwards • *She bent down to pick up the cat.*

bend *noun*
a part where something curves or turns

beneath *preposition, adverb*
under • *Beneath the soil there is clay.*

benefit *noun*
1 a benefit is something that is useful or helpful • *Television is one of the benefits of modern science.* **2** benefit is money that the government pays to help people who are poor, sick, or out of work **to give someone the benefit of the doubt** is to believe them even though you cannot be sure

benefit *verb*
you benefit from something, or it benefits you, when it helps you

bent *adjective*
1 curved or crooked **2** (*slang*) dishonest

bequeath *verb*
(*rhymes with* **breathe**)
to bequeath something to someone is to leave it to them in a will

bequest *noun*
a gift of money or property that someone leaves to a person in their will

bereaved *adjective*
a bereaved person is someone with a close relative who has recently died **bereavement** *noun* someone suffers bereavement when a close relative dies

beret *noun* (*say* **bair**-ay)
a soft, round, flat cap

berry *noun* (**berries**)
a small, juicy fruit

berserk *adjective*
to go berserk is to become extremely angry or lose control • *The man went berserk and started flinging things around.*

berth *noun*
1 a sleeping place on a ship or train **2** a place where a ship is tied up

beside *preposition*
next to; close to • *The little house stood beside a lake.* **to be beside yourself** is to be very excited or upset • *He was beside himself with anger.*

besides *preposition*
in addition to • *Who came besides you?*

besides *adverb*
also; in addition to this • *The coat cost too much. Besides, it's the wrong colour.*

besiege *verb* (*say* bi-**seej**)
to besiege a place is to surround it until the people inside surrender

best *adjective*
most excellent; most able to do something • *She's the best swimmer in the class.*

best *adverb*
1 in the best way; most • *We'll do what suits you best.* **2** most usefully; most wisely • *He is best ignored.*

best *noun*
the best person or thing, or the best people or things • *She was the best at tennis.* • *These apples are the best you can buy.* **to do your best** is to do as well as you can **to make the best of something** is to accept it and enjoy it as much as you can, even though it is not very good

best man *noun*
someone who helps the bridegroom at his wedding

best-seller *noun*
a book or other product that has sold in very large numbers

bet *noun*
1 an agreement that you will receive money if you are correct in choosing the winner of a race or in saying something will happen, and will lose money if you are not correct **2** the money you risk losing in a bet

bet *verb* (**betting, bet** or **betted**)
1 to bet, or to bet money, is to make a bet **2** (*informal*) to bet something is to say you are sure about it • *I bet I'm right.*

betray *verb*
1 to betray someone is to do them harm when they are expecting your support **2** to betray something you are trying to keep hidden is to reveal it • *The look on her face betrayed her surprise.* **betrayal** *noun* betrayal is betraying someone

better *adjective*
1 more excellent • *I need a better bike.* **2** to be better is to feel well again after an illness • *Are you better?*

better *noun*
a better person or thing **to get the better of someone** is to defeat or outwit them

better *adverb*
in a better way • *Try to do it better next time.* **to be better off** is to be more fortunate in some way, for example by having more money

better *verb*
to better something is to improve on it • *She hopes to better her own record time.*

between *preposition, adverb*
within two or more points; among • *Call me between Tuesday and Friday.* • *The train runs between London and Glasgow.* • *What is the difference between butter and margarine?* • *Divide the sweets between the children.* • *The two houses are side by side with a fence between.*

beware *verb* (**beware**)
a warning to be careful • *Beware of pickpockets.*

bewilder *verb*
to bewilder someone is to puzzle them completely **bewilderment** *noun* bewilderment is being bewildered or puzzled

bewitch *verb*
to bewitch someone is to put a spell on them

beyond *preposition, adverb*
farther on • *Don't go beyond the end of the street.* • *You can see the next valley and the mountains beyond.*

bias *noun*
bias is a strong feeling in favour of one person or side and against another • *The referee was accused of bias.* **biased** *adjective* someone is biased when they show that they prefer one person or side over another

bib *noun*
a piece of cloth or plastic you put under a baby's chin during meals to protect its clothes from stains

Bible *noun*
the holy book of Christianity and Judaism **biblical** *adjective* to do with the Bible

bicycle *noun*
a two-wheeled vehicle that you ride by pushing down on pedals with your feet


bicycle

bid *noun*
1 offering an amount you will pay for something, especially at an auction **2** an attempt • *He will make a bid for the world record tomorrow.*

bid *verb* (**bidding, bid**)
to bid an amount of money is to offer it for something at an auction

bide *verb*
to bide your time is to wait, expecting something to happen that will help you

big *adjective* (**bigger, biggest**)
1 more than the normal size; large **2** important • *This is a big decision.* **3** elder • *Have you met my big sister?*

bike *noun*
(*informal*) a bicycle or motorcycle

bikini *noun*
a woman's two-piece swimsuit

bilingual *adjective*
speaking two languages well

bill[1] *noun*
1 a piece of paper that tells you how much money you owe for something **2** a plan for a new law in parliament **3** a poster

bill[2] *noun*
a bird's beak

billiards *noun*
a game played with long sticks (called cues) and three balls on a cloth-covered table

billion *noun*
a thousand million (1,000,000,000) **billionth** *adjective, noun* a thousand-millionth

billow *verb*
to billow is to rise up or move like waves on the sea • *Her cloak billowed out behind her.*

bin *noun*
a large or deep container, especially one that you put rubbish or litter in

binary *adjective*
having two parts • *a binary star*

binary system *noun*
a system of expressing numbers by using the digits 0 and 1 only. For example, 21 is written 10101.

bind *verb* (**binding, bound**)
1 to bind things is to tie them up or tie them together **2** to bind something is to wrap a piece of material round it **3** to bind a book is to fasten the pages inside a cover **4** to bind someone is to make them do something or promise something

bingo *noun*
a game played with cards with numbered squares. These are covered or crossed out as the numbers are called out, and the first person to complete the card wins the game

binoculars *plural noun*
a device with lenses for both eyes, for making distant objects seem nearer

biodegradable *adjective*
able to be broken down by bacteria in the environment • *All our packaging is biodegradable.*

biography *noun* (**biographies**)
the story of a person's life **biographer** *noun* someone who writes a biography **biographical** *adjective* a biographical story or history is one that is about a person's life

biology *noun*
the science or study of living things **biological** *adjective* to do with biology **biologist** *noun* a person who studies biology

birch *noun*
a thin tree with shiny bark and slender branches

bird *noun*
a feathered animal with two wings, two legs, and a beak

bird of prey *noun*
a bird that feeds on animal flesh, such as an eagle or hawk

birth *noun*
birth is the beginning of a person's or animal's life, when they come out of their mother's body

birthday *noun*
the anniversary of the day on which you were born

birthmark *noun*
a coloured mark which has been on someone's skin since they were born

birthplace *noun*
the place where someone was born

biscuit *noun*
a small flat kind of cake that has been baked until it is hard

bishop *noun*
1 a senior priest in the Christian Church who is in charge of all the churches in a city or district **2** a chess piece shaped like a bishop's hat

bison *noun* (**bison**)
a wild ox with shaggy hair

bit *noun*
1 a small piece or amount of something **2** the part of a horse's bridle that is put into its mouth **3** the part of a tool that cuts or grips **4** (*in computing*) the smallest unit of data or memory **a bit** slightly • *I'm a bit worried.* **bit by bit** gradually

bitch *noun*
a female dog, fox, or wolf

bite *verb* (**biting, bit, bitten**)
1 to bite something is to cut it or hold it with your teeth **2** to sting or hurt • *a biting wind*

bite *noun*
1 to give a person or animal a bite is to bite them **2** a mark or spot made by biting • *He was covered in insect bites.* **3** a snack • *Would you like a bite?*



bitter *adjective*
1 tasting sour and unpleasant **2** feeling angry and resentful because you are disappointed about something • *She is very bitter about losing her place in the team.* **3** extremely cold • *There was a bitter wind.*

black *adjective*
1 of the darkest colour, like coal or soot **2** having dark skin **3** dismal; not hopeful • *The outlook is black.* **4** very dirty





black *noun*
1 a black colour **2** a person with dark skin

blackberry *noun* (**blackberries**)
a sweet black berry



blackberry

blackbird *noun*
a dark European songbird

blackboard *noun*
a dark board for writing on with chalk

blacken *verb*
1 to blacken something is to make it black **2** to blacken someone's name is to say bad things about them

black eye *noun*
an eye with heavy bruises round it

black hole *noun*
a region in space with such strong gravity that no light escapes

blackmail *verb*
to blackmail someone is to get money from them by threatening to tell people something that they want to keep secret

blackout *noun*
1 when a person becomes unconscious for a short time **2** a time when lights are kept hidden or turned off

blacksmith *noun*
someone who makes and repairs things made of iron, and fits shoes on horses

bladder *noun*
your bladder is the bag-like part of your body where urine collects

blade *noun*
1 the sharp part of a device for cutting, such as a knife or sword **2** the flat, wide part of an oar or propeller **3** a long narrow leaf of grass

blame *verb*
to blame someone is to say that they have done something wrong • *My brother broke the window but they blamed me.*

blame *noun*
to get the blame for something is to be blamed for it **to be to blame** is to be the person who has done something wrong

blancmange *noun* (*say* bla-**monj**)
blancmange is a pudding like a jelly made with milk

blank *adjective*
1 not written, drawn, or printed on • *The piece of paper was blank.* **2** showing no expression or interest • *His face looked blank.* **to go blank** is to suddenly forget everything • *When he asked me the way, my mind went blank.*

blank *noun*
1 an empty space **2** a cartridge for a gun which makes a noise but does not fire a bullet

blanket *noun*
a large piece of thick cloth, used as a warm covering for a bed

blare *verb*
to blare is to make a harsh, loud sound

blasphemous *adjective* (*say* **blas**-fe-mus)
disrespectful about God or a religion **blasphemy** *noun* talking without respect about God or a religion

blast *noun*
1 a strong rush of wind or air **2** a sharp or loud noise • *The referee gave a long blast of his whistle.*

blast *verb*
to blast something is to blow it up with explosives

blast-off *noun*
the launch of a spacecraft

blaze *noun*
1 a very bright fire **2** a very bright colour or light

blaze *verb*
1 to blaze is to burn or shine brightly **2** to blaze with a feeling is to feel it very strongly • *He was blazing with anger.*

blazer *noun*
a kind of jacket, often with a badge on the front

bleach *noun*
a substance used to clean things or make clothes white

bleach *verb*
to bleach something is to make it white

bleak *adjective*
1 bare and cold • *No trees grew on this bleak hillside.* **2** dreary and miserable • *The future looks bleak.*

bleary *adjective* (**blearier, bleariest**)
bleary eyes are tired and do not see clearly

bleat *noun*
the cry of a sheep or goat

bleat *verb*
a sheep or goat bleats when it makes a bleat

bleed *verb* (**bleeding, bled**)
to bleed is to lose blood from your body, for example if you are injured

bleep *noun*
a small, high sound like the sound some digital watches make

blemish *noun*
1 a mark or stain on something **2** a fault or weakness

blend *verb*
to blend things is to mix them together smoothly or easily

blend *noun*
a smooth mixture

bless *verb*
1 to bless someone is to wish or bring them happiness **2** to bless someone is also to ask God to look after them

blessing *noun*
1 a prayer or act of blessing someone **2** something you are glad of or happy about • *It's a blessing that they are safe.*

blight *noun*
1 blight is a plant disease **2** a blight is a thing that spoils or damages something

blind *adjective*
1 not able to see **2** without thought or understanding

blind *verb*
1 to blind someone is to make them blind **2** a bright light blinds you when it makes you unable to see for a time

blind *noun*
a screen for a window

blindfold *noun*
a piece of cloth used to cover someone's eyes so that they cannot see

blindfold *verb*
to blindfold someone is to cover their eyes with a blindfold

blink *verb*
to blink is to shut and open your eyes quickly

bliss *noun*
bliss is great happiness **blissful** *adjective* very happy **blissfully** *adverb* very happily

blister *noun*
a swelling like a bubble on your skin

blitz *noun*
a sudden violent attack, especially from aircraft

WORD ORIGINS

The word **blitz** is a shortening of the German word *Blitzkrieg*, which means 'lightning war'.

blizzard *noun*
a severe snowstorm

bloated *adjective*
swollen or puffed out

blob *noun*
a small round lump of something like paint or ice cream

block *noun*
1 a solid piece of something hard such as wood **2** a large building or group of buildings with streets all around it **3** something that stops people getting through • *They came to a road block and had to turn back.*

block *verb*
1 to block something is to get in the way of it • *Tall buildings blocked our view.* **2** to block something like a pipe or drain is to prevent water flowing through it

blockade *noun*
when a city or port is surrounded to stop people or goods from getting in or out

blockage *noun*
1 something that stops up a pipe or drain **2** a blocked state • *Roadworks are causing blockages in the traffic.*

block capitals or **block letters** *plural noun*
large capital letters

blog *noun*
a website on which someone writes regularly about their own life or opinions

blond or **blonde** *adjective*
fair-haired

blonde *noun*
a fair-haired girl or woman

blood *noun*
the red liquid that flows through your veins and arteries

bloodhound *noun*
a large breed of dog which can track people over long distances by following their scent

bloodshed *noun*
bloodshed is the killing and injuring of people

bloodshot *adjective*
eyes are bloodshot when they are streaked with red from being strained or tired

bloodstream *noun*
the bloodstream is the blood flowing round your body

bloodthirsty *adjective* (**bloodthirstier, bloodthirstiest**)
enjoying killing and violence

bloody *adjective*
1 bleeding, or covered in blood **2** a bloody fight or battle is one in which a lot of people are killed or badly hurt

bloom *verb*
to bloom is to produce flowers • *Look! The roses have bloomed!*

bloom *noun*
a bloom is a flower **in bloom** trees and plants are in bloom when they are producing flowers

blossom *noun*
1 a blossom is a flower, especially on a fruit tree **2** blossom is a mass of flowers on a tree


blossom

blossom *verb*
1 a tree or bush blossoms when it produces flowers **2** to blossom is also to develop into something very fine or good • *She has blossomed into a lovely singer.*

blot *noun*
1 a spot or blob of ink **2** a flaw or fault

blot *verb* (**blotting, blotted**)
to blot something is to make a blot on it **to blot something out** is to remove it or make it invisible

blotch *noun*
an untidy patch of colour **blotchy** *adjective* having lots of blotches

blouse *noun*
a loose piece of clothing like a shirt that girls and women wear

blow *noun*
1 a hard knock or hit **2** a shock or disappointment • *The news came to her as a terrible blow.* **3** the action of blowing

blow *verb* (**blowing, blew, blown**)
1 to blow is to force out air from your mouth or nose • *He blew on his cold hands to warm them up.* **2** to move in the wind • *Her hat blew off.* **3** to blow something is to form it by blowing • *Let's blow bubbles.* **4** to blow something such as a whistle is to make a sound with it **to blow something up** is to destroy it with an explosion **to blow up** is to be destroyed in an explosion

blue *adjective*
1 of the colour of a bright cloudless sky **2** sad and miserable • *I'm feeling blue.*

blue *noun*
a blue colour **out of the blue** with no warning • *My friend turned up out of the blue.*

bluebottle *noun*
a large blue fly that makes a loud buzz

blues *plural noun*
blues is a type of music that is often sad **to get the blues** is to feel sad and miserable

bluff *verb*
to bluff someone is to make them think that you will do something that you don't intend to do or that you know something that you don't really know

bluff *noun*
a bluff is something that someone says or does to bluff someone else, for example an empty promise or threat • *He said he'd report us, but that was just a bluff.* **to call someone's bluff** is to challenge them to do what they have threatened to do

blunder *noun*
a careless mistake

blunt *adjective*
1 having an edge that is smooth and not good for cutting **2** saying what you mean without trying to be polite or tactful

blur *verb* (**blurring, blurred**)
to blur something is to make it unclear or smeared

blur *noun*
an unclear shape with no definite outline • *Without her glasses on, everything was a blur.*

blurt *verb*
to blurt something out is to say it suddenly, without thinking

blush *verb*
to blush is to have a strong pink tinge in your face because you are embarrassed or ashamed

bluster *verb*
to bluster is to boast or make threats that don't mean very much

boa or **boa constrictor** *noun*
a large South American snake that coils round its prey and crushes it

boar *noun*
1 a wild pig **2** a male pig

board *noun*
1 a board is a flat piece of wood, used in building **2** a board is also a flat piece of wood or cardboard used to play games with, for example a dartboard or a chess board **3** a board is also a group of people who run a company or organization **4** board is daily meals supplied in return for money or work • *The price of the holiday includes full board.* **on board** aboard a ship

board *verb*
1 to board a ship or train or aircraft is to get on it for a journey **2** to board is to get meals and accommodation **to board something up** is to cover it with boards

boarder *noun*
1 a child who lives at a boarding school during the term **2** a lodger

boarding school *noun*
a school in which the pupils live during the term

boast *verb*
to boast about something that you own or that you have done is to talk proudly about it, often in order to impress people

boastful *adjective*
a boastful person likes to talk a lot about the things they own or the things they have done **boastfully** *adverb*

boat *noun*
a vehicle designed to float and travel on water

bob *verb* (**bobbing, bobbed**)
to bob is to move gently up and down, like something floating on water

bobble *noun*
a small round ball of something soft such as wool, used as a decoration on a hat or clothing

bobsleigh or **bobsled** *noun*
a large sledge with two sets of runners

bodice *noun*
the upper part of a woman's dress

body *noun* (**bodies**)
1 the body is the flesh and bones and other parts of a person or animal **2** a body is a dead person or corpse **3** the body of something is the main part of it **4** a body of people is a group of them in one place **5** a body is a distinct object or piece of matter • *Stars and planets are heavenly bodies.*

bodyguard *noun*
a guard who protects someone from being attacked

bog *noun*
bog or a bog is an area of wet, spongy ground **boggy** *adjective* boggy ground is wet and spongy

bogus *adjective*
false; not real or genuine • *He gave a name that turned out to be bogus.*

boil[1] *verb*
1 to boil a liquid is to heat it until it starts to bubble and give off vapour **2** to boil is to start bubbling, like water **3** to boil food is to cook it in boiling water **to be boiling** (*informal*) is to be very hot, like the weather • *It's boiling outside.*

boil[2] *noun*
a painful red swelling on the skin

boiler *noun*
a container for heating water or making steam

boiling point *noun*
the temperature at which something boils

boisterous *adjective*
noisy and lively

bold *adjective*
1 brave and adventurous **2** clear and easy to see

bollard *noun*
a short thick post put up on a road, used to keep out traffic

bolt *noun*
1 a sliding bar for fastening a door or window **2** a thick metal pin for fastening things together **3** a flash of lightning

bolt *verb*
1 to bolt a door or window is to fasten it with a bolt **2** to bolt is to run away in panic, as a horse does **3** to bolt food is to swallow it too quickly

bomb *noun*
a container with explosives, which blows up when it is detonated

bomb *verb*
to bomb a place is to attack it with bombs

bombard *verb*
1 to bombard a place is to attack it with heavy gunfire **2** to bombard someone with questions or complaints is to direct a large number of questions or complaints at them **bombardment** *noun* a heavy attack with guns

bomber *noun*
1 an aircraft built to drop bombs **2** a person who plants or sets off a bomb

bond *noun*
1 a shared experience or feeling that brings people close together **2** bonds are ropes or chains used to tie people up

bondage *noun*
bondage is being a slave

bone *noun*
a bone is one of the hard pieces of a skeleton

bonfire *noun*
a large fire lit out of doors

bonnet *noun*
1 the hinged cover over the front part of a car **2** a baby's or woman's hat with strings that tie under the chin

bonus *noun*
1 an extra payment that someone gets for their work **2** an extra advantage or reward

bony *adjective* (**bonier, boniest**)
1 bony people or animals have bones without much flesh on them **2** full of bones **3** thin and hard, like a bone

boo *verb*
to boo is to shout out that you don't like what someone has said or done, like an angry audience in a theatre

book *noun*
a set of sheets of paper, usually with printing or writing on, fastened together inside a cover


books

book *verb*
1 to book something such as a seat in a theatre or on a train, or a room in a hotel, is to arrange for it to be kept for you **2** to book something is to record it in a book or list

bookcase *noun*
a piece of furniture with shelves for holding books

booklet *noun*
a small book with paper covers

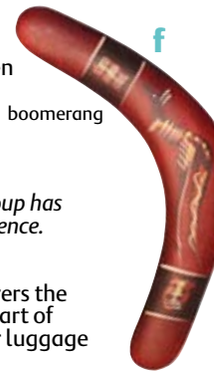
bookmaker *noun*
a person whose business is taking bets, especially bets made on horse races

bookmark *noun*
something you use to mark a place in a book

boom *noun*
1 a deep hollow sound **2** a time when people are well off **3** a long pole at the bottom of a sail to keep it stretched

boom *verb*
1 to boom is to make a deep hollow sound, like a heavy gun **2** to boom is also to speak in a loud deep voice **3** to boom is also to grow quickly or be prosperous • *Business is booming.*

boomerang *noun*
a curved stick which moves in a curve and comes back to you when you throw it.


boomerang

boost *verb*
to boost something is to increase its size or value or power • *Being in the drama group has really boosted his confidence.*

booster *noun*

boot *noun*
1 a heavy shoe that covers the ankle and sometimes part of your leg **2** the space for luggage at the back of a car

boot *verb*
1 to boot someone is to kick them hard **2** to boot up a computer is to switch it on and start it

booth *noun*
a small compartment for a special purpose, such as making a telephone call or having your photo taken

border *noun*
1 the border between two countries is the line where they meet • *We're about to cross the Scottish border.* **2** an edge • *There is a black border around the poster.* **3** a flower bed

bore *verb*
1 to bore someone is to make them feel tired and uninterested **2** to bore a hole is to drill it through something

bore *noun*
a dull or uninteresting person or thing

boredom *noun*
a feeling of tiredness and lack of interest

boring *adjective*
dull and uninteresting • *The book was really boring.*

born *adjective*
to be born is to start your life • *My little brother was born on the 17th of December.*

borough *noun* (*say* **bu**-ro)
an important town or district with its own local council

borrow *verb*
to borrow something is to have

it for a time and then return it to its owner

bosom *noun*
a woman's breasts

boss *noun*
(*informal*) a person who is in charge of a business or group of workers

boss *verb*
(*informal*) to boss someone is to order them around

bossy *adjective* (**bossier, bossiest**)
(*informal*) a bossy person is fond of ordering people about

botany *noun*
botany is the study of plants **botanist** *noun* someone who studies botany **botanical** *adjective* to do with botany or plants

both *determiner, pronoun*
the two of them, not just one • *I want them both in the team.*

both *adverb*
you use **both** with **and** to say two things about something or someone • *He is both friendly and helpful.*

bother *verb*
1 to bother someone is to cause them trouble or worry **2** to be bothered to do something is to take trouble over it

bother *noun*
bother is trouble or worry

bottle *noun*
a glass or plastic container with a narrow neck for holding liquids

bottle *verb*
to bottle something is to put it in a bottle **to bottle something up** is to keep something you are worried about to yourself

bottle bank *noun*
a large tank or drum for putting glass bottles and jars in for recycling

bottom *noun*
1 the bottom of something is its lowest point **2** the bottom of a garden is the farther end of it, away from the house **3** your bottom is the part of you that you sit on, also called your buttocks

bough *noun* (*rhymes with* **cow**)
a large branch of a tree that reaches out from the trunk

boulder *noun*
a very large smooth stone

bounce *verb*
1 to bounce is to spring back when thrown against something, like a rubber ball **2** to bounce something like a ball is to throw it so that it bounces

bounce *noun*
1 a bounce is the action of bouncing **2** bounce is liveliness, such as a young child or puppy has **bouncy** *adjective* a bouncy person is lively and full of energy

bound[1] *adjective*
to be bound for a place is to be travelling towards it • *This train is bound for London.* **to be bound to do something** is to have to do it or be likely to do it • *He is bound to come.*

bound[2] *verb*
to bound is to leap or to run with leaping steps

bound[3] *noun*
a leaping movement

boundary *noun* (**boundaries**)
1 a line that marks a limit **2** a hit to the outer edge of a cricket field

bounds *plural noun*
a place that is **out of bounds** is somewhere you are not allowed to go • *The teachers' common room is out of bounds to pupils.*

bouquet *noun*
(*say* boo-**kay** or *say* boh-**kay**)
an attractively arranged bunch of flowers

bout *noun* (*say* bowt)
1 a period of illness • *I've just had a bout of flu.* **2** a boxing or wrestling fight

bow[1] *noun* (*rhymes with* **go**)
1 a knot made with loops **2** the stick used for playing a stringed musical instrument such as a violin or cello **3** a long curved piece of wood with a tight string joining its ends, used for shooting arrows

bow[2] *noun* (*rhymes with* **cow**)
the front part of a ship

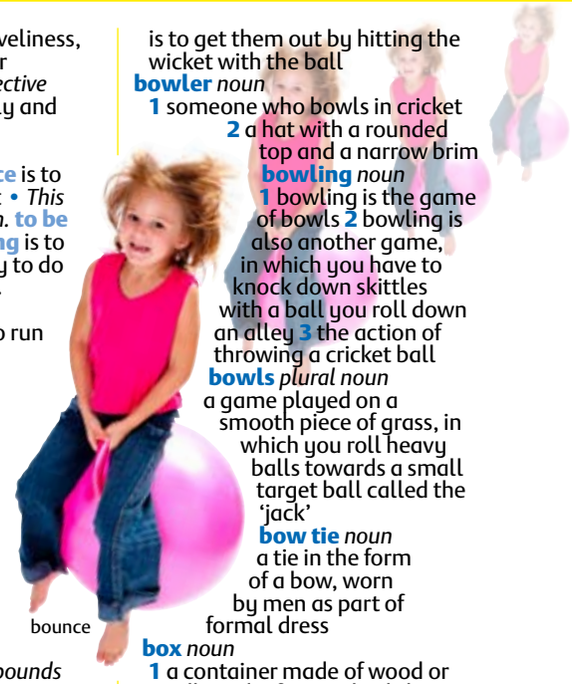
bow[3] *verb* (*rhymes with* **cow**)
to bow is to bend your body forwards to show respect or as a greeting

bow[3] *noun* (*rhymes with* **cow**)
a movement of bowing your body • *The pianist stood up to take a bow.*

bowels *plural noun*
your bowels are the long tubes in your body that carry waste food for passing out of the body

bowl[1] *noun*
1 a deep round dish for eating from **2** a heavy ball used in the game of bowls or tenpin bowling

bowl[2] *verb*
(*in cricket*) **1** to bowl is to send the ball towards the batsman **2** to bowl someone is to get them out by hitting the wicket with the ball


bounce

bowler *noun*
1 someone who bowls in cricket **2** a hat with a rounded top and a narrow brim

bowling *noun*
1 bowling is the game of bowls **2** bowling is also another game, in which you have to knock down skittles with a ball you roll down an alley **3** the action of throwing a cricket ball

bowls *plural noun*
a game played on a smooth piece of grass, in which you roll heavy balls towards a small target ball called the 'jack'

bow tie *noun*
a tie in the form of a bow, worn by men as part of formal dress

box *noun*
1 a container made of wood or cardboard, often with a lid **2** a small rectangle that you fill in on a form or computer screen **3** a special compartment or booth, such as a phone box or a witness box in a lawcourt

box *verb*
1 to box is to fight with the fists **2** to box something is to put it into a box

boxer *noun*
1 someone who boxes **2** a breed of dog that looks like a bulldog

Boxing Day *noun*
the first weekday after Christmas Day

box office *noun*
a place where you can buy seats for the theatre or cinema

boy *noun*
a male child **boyhood** *noun* the time when a man was a boy **boyish** *adjective* looking or behaving like a boy

boycott *verb*
to boycott something is to refuse to buy it or have anything to do with it • *They boycotted the buses when the fares went up.*

boyfriend *noun*
someone's boyfriend is the male friend they have a romantic relationship with

bra *noun*
a piece of underwear women wear to support their breasts

brace *noun*
1 a device for holding something in place **2** a wire device for straightening the teeth

bracelet *noun*
a small band or chain you wear round your wrist

braces *plural noun*
braces are a pair of stretching straps worn over the shoulders to hold trousers up

bracket *noun*
1 a kind of punctuation mark used in pairs round words or figures to separate them from what comes before and after. Brackets are round ( ) or square [ ] **2** a support attached to a wall to hold up a shelf or light fitting

brag *verb* (**bragging, bragged**)
to brag is to boast

braid *noun*
1 a plait **2** a decorative ribbon or band

braille *noun*
braille is a system of writing or printing using raised dots, which blind people can read by touch

WORD ORIGINS

Braille is named after a French teacher called Louis Braille, who was blind from the age of three and invented the system. He died in 1852.

brain *noun*
1 your brain is the part inside the top of your head that controls your body **2** brain also means a person's mind or intelligence • *He's got a good brain.*

brainy *adjective* (**brainier, brainiest**)
(*informal*) clever, intelligent • *She's the brainiest child in the school.*

brake *noun*
a device for making a vehicle stop or slow down

bramble *noun*
a bramble is a blackberry bush or a prickly bush like it

branch *noun*
1 a part that sticks out from the trunk of a tree **2** a part of a railway or river or road that leads off from the main part **3** a part of a large organization

branch *verb*
to branch is to form a branch **to branch out** is to start doing something new

brand *noun*
a particular make or kind of goods • *Just get a cheap brand of tea.*

brand *verb*
to brand sheep or cattle is to mark them with a hot iron

brandish *verb*
to brandish something is to wave it about • *One of the guards stepped forward, brandishing his spear.*

brand new *adjective*
completely new

brandy *noun*
brandy is a kind of strong alcoholic drink

brass *noun*
1 brass is an alloy made from copper and zinc **2** brass also means the wind instruments made of brass, such as trumpets and trombones



brave *adjective*
ready to face danger or suffering

brave *noun*
a Native American warrior

bravery *noun*
bravery is being brave **bravely** *adverb*

brawl *noun*
a noisy fight or quarrel

bray *verb*
to bray is to make a noise like a donkey

brazen *adjective*
shameless or cheeky

breach *noun*
1 the breaking of an agreement or rule **2** a gap or broken place in something like a wall

bread *noun*
bread is food made by baking flour and water, usually with yeast

breadth *noun*
a thing's breadth is its width from side to side

break *verb* (**breaking, broke, broken**)
1 to break something is to make it go into several pieces by hitting it or dropping it **2** to break is to stop working properly • *I think my watch must have broken.* **3** to break a law or rule or promise is to fail to keep it or observe it **4** the weather breaks when it changes after being hot **5** waves break over rocks when they fall and froth over them **6** a boy's voice breaks when it starts to go deeper at about the age of 14 **7** to break a record is to do better than the previous holder, for example in athletics **to break down** a machine or vehicle breaks down when it stops working properly **to break off** is to stop doing something for a time • *We broke off for lunch.* **to break out** is to start and spread rapidly, like a disease or fighting **to break up** **1** people break up when they leave one another after a long time together **2** is to finish school at the end of term

break *noun*
1 a broken place; a gap **2** a sudden dash or attempt to escape **3** a short rest from work

breakage *noun*
something that is broken • *All breakages must be paid for.*

breakdown *noun*
1 a sudden failure to work, especially by a car • *We had a breakdown on the motorway.* **2** a period of mental illness caused by anxiety or depression

breaker *noun*
a wave breaking on the shore

breakfast *noun*
breakfast is the first meal of the day

breakthrough *noun*
an important discovery or step forward, for example in medical research

breast *noun*
1 one of the two parts on the front of a woman's body where milk is produced after she has had a baby **2** a person's or animal's chest

breaststroke *noun*
a stroke you use when swimming on your front, by pushing your arms forward and bringing them round and back

breath *noun* (*say* breth)
the air that you take into your lungs and send out again **to be out of breath** is to gasp for air after exercise

breathe *verb* (*say* breeth)
to breathe is to take air into your lungs through your nose or mouth and send it out again

breathless *adjective*
short of breath

breathtaking *adjective*
extremely beautiful or delightful

breech *noun*
the part of a gun barrel where the bullets are put in

breed *verb* (**breeding, bred**)
1 to breed is to produce offspring **2** to breed animals is to keep them in order to get young ones from them **breeder** *noun* someone who breeds animals

breed *noun*
a variety of similar animals

breeze *noun*
a gentle wind

breezy *adjective* (**breezier, breeziest**)
1 slightly windy **2** bright and cheerful

brevity *noun*
brevity is being brief or short • *I was surprised by the brevity of her answer.*

brew *verb*
1 to brew beer or tea is to make it **2** to be brewing is to start or develop • *Trouble is brewing.*

brewery *noun*
a place where beer is made

bribe *noun*
a bribe is money or a gift offered to someone to make them do something

bribe *verb*
to bribe someone is to give them a bribe **bribery** *noun* bribery is offering someone a bribe

brick *noun*
1 a small hard block of baked clay used in building **2** a rectangular block of something

bricklayer *noun*
a worker who builds with bricks

bridal *adjective*
to do with brides

bride *noun*
a woman on her wedding day

bridegroom *noun*
a man on his wedding day

bridegroom bride



bridesmaid *noun*
a girl or woman who helps the bride at her wedding

bridge *noun*
1 a bridge is a structure built over a river, railway, or road, to allow people to cross it **2** the bridge of a ship is the high platform above the deck, from where the ship is controlled **3** the bridge of your nose is the bony upper part of your nose **4** bridge is a card game rather like whist

bridle *noun*
the part of a horse's harness that fits over its head

bridle path *noun*
a path for people on horseback

brief *adjective*
lasting a short time or using only a few words **in brief** in a few words

briefcase *noun*
a flat case for keeping documents and papers in

briefs *plural noun*
short underpants

brigade *noun*
1 an army unit usually consisting of three battalions **2** a group of people in uniform, for example the fire brigade

bright *adjective*
1 giving out a strong light; shining **2** a bright colour is strong and vivid **3** clever • *He's a bright lad.* **4** cheerful

brighten *verb*
1 to brighten something is to make it brighter **2** to brighten is to become brighter

brilliance *noun*
1 brilliance is bright light • *the brilliance of the summer sky* **2** brilliance is also being very intelligent or clever

brilliant *adjective*
1 a brilliant person is very intelligent or clever **2** (*informal*) really good or enjoyable • *That was a brilliant film!* **3** very bright and sparkling

brim *noun*
1 the edge round the top of a container **2** the bottom edge of a hat that sticks out

brimming *adjective*
completely full **brimming over** overflowing

brine *noun*
brine is salty water

bring *verb* (**bringing, brought**)
to bring someone or something is to make them come with you to a place **to bring someone up** is to look after them and educate them as a child **to bring something about** is to make it happen **to bring something up** is to mention it in a conversation

brink *noun*
the edge of a steep or dangerous place

brisk *adjective*
quick and lively

bristle *noun*
a short, stiff hair **bristly** *adjective* having lots of bristles

British *adjective*
to do with Great Britain

Briton *noun*
someone born in Great Britain

brittle *adjective*
hard but likely to break or snap

broad *adjective*
1 wide and open • *They walked down a broad avenue.* **2** general, not detailed • *a broad outline*

broadband *noun*
a system for connecting computers to the Internet and sending information very quickly

broad bean *noun*
a large flat bean

broadcast *noun*
a radio or television programme

broadcast *verb*
to broadcast a radio or television programme is to transmit it or take part in it **broadcaster** *noun* a person who takes part in a radio or television programme

broaden *verb*
to broaden something is to make it broader

broadly *adverb*
in general terms • *They were broadly right.*

broccoli *noun* a vegetable with green or purple heads on green stalks



broccoli

brochure *noun*
a booklet containing information, especially about a place

broke *adjective* (*informal*) not having any money

broken *adjective*
1 broken English is English spoken with a strong foreign accent and lots of mistakes **2** a broken home is a home in which the parents have separated

bronchitis *noun*
(*say* brong-**ky**-tiss)
bronchitis is a disease of the lungs

bronze *noun*
1 bronze is an alloy of copper and tin **2** bronze is also a yellowish-brown colour

brooch *noun* (*rhymes with* **coach**)
a piece of jewellery that can be pinned on to clothes

brooch



brood *noun*
a brood is a number of young birds hatched together

brood *verb*
1 birds such as chickens brood when they sit on eggs to hatch them **2** to brood over something is to keep on thinking and worrying about it

brook *noun*
a small stream

broom *noun*
1 a broom is a brush with a long handle, for sweeping **2** broom is a shrub with yellow, white, or pink flowers

broomstick *noun*
the handle of a broom

broth *noun*
broth is a thin kind of soup

brother *noun*
your brother is a man or boy who has the same parents as you

brother-in-law *noun*
a person's brother-in-law is the brother of their husband or wife, or the husband of their sister

brow *noun*
1 your brow is your forehead **2** your brows are your eyebrows **3** the brow of a hill is the top of it

brown *adjective*
of the colour of earth, wood, or toast

brown *noun*
a brown colour



Brownie *noun*
a junior member of the Guides

brownie *noun*
a small chocolate cake with nuts

browse *verb*
1 to browse is to read or look at something casually **2** animals browse when they feed on grass or leaves

bruise *noun*
a dark mark that appears on your skin when it is hit or hurt

bruise *verb*
to bruise your skin or a part of your body is to get a bruise on it

brunette *noun*
a woman with dark brown or black hair

brush *noun*
1 a tool with hairs or bristles for sweeping, painting, or arranging the hair **2** a fox's bushy tail

brush *verb*
1 to brush something is to use a brush on it • *Have you brushed your hair yet?* **2** to brush against someone is to touch them gently as you pass them

Brussels sprout *noun*
a green vegetable like a tiny cabbage

brutal *adjective*
savage and cruel **brutality** *noun* brutality is savage cruelty **brutally** *adverb* with savage cruelty

brute *noun*
a cruel person

bubble *noun*
1 a thin transparent ball of liquid filled with air or gas **2** a small ball of air in a liquid or a solid

bubble *verb*
a liquid bubbles when it produces bubbles, as it does when it boils

bubbly *adjective* (**bubblier, bubbliest**)
1 full of bubbles, like fizzy water **2** a bubbly person is cheerful and lively

buccaneer *noun*
an old word for a pirate

buck *noun*
a male deer, rabbit, or hare

buck *verb*
a horse bucks when it jumps with its back arched

bucket *noun*
a container with a handle, for carrying liquids or something such as sand

buckle *noun*
a clip at the end of a belt or strap for fastening it

buckle *verb*
1 to buckle something is to fasten it with a buckle **2** to buckle is to bend or give way under a strain • *The arm of the crane was beginning to buckle.* **to buckle down** is to start work

bud *noun*
a flower or leaf before it has opened

Buddhism *noun*
(*say* **buud**-izm)
Buddhism is a religion that started in Asia and follows the teachings of Buddha **Buddhist** *noun* someone who practises Buddhism

budding *adjective*
showing great promise • *The new class had several budding musicians.*

budge *verb*
to budge is to move slightly • *The door was stuck and wouldn't budge.*

budgerigar *noun*
(*say* **bud**-jer-i-gar)
an Australian bird often kept as a pet in a cage

budget *noun*
1 the money someone plans to spend on something **2** a plan for earning and spending money

budget *verb*
to budget is to plan how much you are going to spend

budgie *noun*
(*informal*) a budgerigar

buffalo *noun* (**buffalo** or **buffaloes**)
a wild ox with long curved horns

buffer *noun*
something that softens a blow or collision, especially a device on a railway engine or wagon or at the end of a railway line

buffet *noun* (*say* **buu**-fay)
1 a cafe or place for buying drinks and snacks **2** a meal where guests serve themselves

bug *noun*
1 a tiny insect **2** (*informal*) a germ that causes illness • *I may have a tummy bug.* **3** (*informal*) a hidden microphone **4** a fault or problem in a computer program that stops it working properly

bugle *noun* (*say* **byoo**-gul)
a brass instrument like a small trumpet **bugler** *noun* someone who plays the bugle

build *verb* (**building, built**)
to build something is to make it by putting the parts together **to build something up** is to make it larger or stronger • *Regular exercise will build up your strength.* **to build up** is to become larger or stronger • *The traffic was starting to build up.*

build *noun*
your build is the shape of your body

builder *noun*
someone who puts up buildings

building *noun*
a building is a structure that someone has built, such as a house or a block of flats

bulb *noun*
1 the glass part of an electric light which glows when you switch it on **2** an onion-shaped root which grows into a plant or flower when it is put in the ground

bulge *noun*
a part that sticks out; a swelling

bulge *verb*
to bulge is to stick out or swell

bulk *noun*
1 a thing's bulk is its size, especially when it is large **2** the bulk of something is most of it



budgerigar

• *He spends the bulk of his time on the computer.* **in bulk** in large quantities

bulky *adjective* (**bulkier, bulkiest**)
taking up a lot of space

bull *noun*
1 the male of the cattle family **2** a male seal, whale, or elephant

bulldozer *noun*
a heavy vehicle with a wide metal blade in front, used to clear or flatten land

bullet *noun*
a piece of shaped metal shot from a rifle or pistol

bulletin *noun*
a short announcement of news on radio or television

bullfight *noun*
in Spain, a public entertainment in which people challenge bulls, and sometimes kill them
bullfighter *noun* someone who takes part in a bullfight

bullion *noun*
gold or silver in the form of bars

bullock *noun*
a young bull

bull's-eye *noun*
the centre of a target

bully *verb* (**bullies, bullying, bullied**)
to bully someone is to hurt or frighten them when they are weaker

bully *noun* (**bullies**)
someone who bullies people

bulrush *noun*
a tall reed which grows in water or on boggy land

bumble bee *noun*
a large kind of bee with a loud buzz

bump *verb*
to bump something is to knock against it accidentally **to bump into someone** (*informal*) is to meet them unexpectedly

bump *noun*
1 an accidental knock **2** a swelling or lump

bumper[1] *noun*
a bar along the front or back of a motor vehicle to protect it in collisions

bumper[2] *adjective*
unusually large or fine • *We had a bumper crop of apples this year.*

bumpy *adjective* (**bumpier, bumpiest**)
having lots of bumps

bun *noun*
1 a small round sweet cake **2** a round bunch of hair that some women make at the back of their head

bunch *noun*
a number of things joined or tied together, such as fruit or flowers or keys • *He was eating a bunch of grapes.*

bundle *noun*
a number of things tied or wrapped loosely together, such as clothes or papers

bundle *verb*
1 to bundle things together is to tie or wrap them loosely **2** to bundle someone into a room or car is to push them there hurriedly • *They bundled him into the back of a taxi.*

bung *noun*
a stopper for a bottle or barrel

bungalow *noun*
a house with all the rooms on one floor

bungle *verb*
to bungle something is to do it badly and clumsily

bunk or **bunk bed** *noun*
a single bed with another bed above it or below it

bunker *noun*
1 a container for storing fuel such as coal **2** a hollow filled with sand, made as an obstacle on a golf course **3** an underground shelter

bunny *noun* (**bunnies**)
(*informal*) a rabbit

bunsen burner *noun*
a gas burner with a flame you can adjust, used in laboratories

buoy *noun* (*say* boi)
a floating object in the sea, used as a marker or warning sign

buoyant *adjective*
able to float **buoyancy** *noun* buoyancy is being able to float

bur *noun*
part of a plant that clings to your clothes or hair

burden *noun*
1 a heavy load **2** something troublesome that you have to put up with

bureau *noun* (**bureaux**)
(*say* **bewr**-oh)
an office or department • *They will tell you at the Information Bureau.*

burger *noun*
a hamburger

burglar *noun*
someone who breaks into a building to steal things
burglary *noun* burglary is the crime of stealing things from a building

burgle *verb*
to burgle someone is to steal from their house

burial *noun*
putting a dead body in a grave

burly *adjective* (**burlier, burliest**)
a burly person is big and strong

burn[1] *verb* (**burning, burnt** or **burned**)
1 to burn something is to damage or destroy it by fire or strong heat **2** to burn is to be damaged or destroyed by fire or heat **3** to be burning is to be on fire **4** to be burning is also to feel very hot

burn[1] *noun*
1 an injury or mark caused by fire or strong heat **2** the firing of a spacecraft's rocket

burn[2] *noun*
(*in Scotland*) a small stream

burner *noun*
the part of a lamp or cooker that forms the flame

burp *verb*
to burp is to make a noise through your mouth by letting air come up from your stomach

burp *noun*
the act or sound of burping

burrow *noun*
a hole dug by an animal such as a rabbit or fox

burrow *verb*
1 an animal burrows when it digs a burrow **2** to burrow is also to dig or search deeply • *He burrowed in his pockets to find a pound coin.*

burst *verb* (**bursting, burst**)
1 to burst is to break apart suddenly **2** to burst something is to make it break apart **3** to be bursting with energy or excitement is to have a lot of energy or to be very excited **to burst in** is to rush in noisily or clumsily **to burst into tears** is to suddenly start crying **to burst out laughing** is to start laughing noisily

burst *noun*
1 a split caused by something bursting • *There's a burst in one of the pipes.* **2** something short and quick • *a burst of gunfire*

bury *verb* (**buries, burying, buried**)
1 to bury something is to put it under the ground **2** to bury someone is to put them in a grave when they are dead

bus *noun*
a large road vehicle for carrying passengers

bush *noun*
1 a bush is a plant like a small tree with a lot of stems or branches **2** the bush is wild land, especially in Australia or Africa

bushy *adjective* (**bushier, bushiest**)
thick and hairy • *His dad has bushy eyebrows.*

busily *adverb*
in a busy way



business *noun* (*say* **biz**-niss)
1 a business is an organization that makes money by selling goods or services • *His uncle worked in a garage business.* **2** business is what an organization does to make money • *She has made a career in business.* **3** a person's business is what concerns them and no one else • *Mind your own business.* **4** a business is also an affair or subject • *I am tired of the whole business.*

busker *noun*
someone who plays music in the street, hoping for money from people passing by

bus stop *noun*
a place where a bus regularly stops

bust[1] *noun*
1 a sculpture of a person's head and shoulders **2** a woman's breasts

bust[2] *adjective* (*informal*) **1** broken • *My watch is bust.* **2** bankrupt

bustle *verb*
to bustle is to be in a hurry or rushing about busily

busy *adjective* (**busier, busiest**)
1 a busy person is one with a lot to do **2** a busy place is one with a lot going on **3** a busy telephone line is one that someone is already using

busybody *noun* (**busybodies**)
someone who interferes in other people's affairs

but *conjunction*
you use **but** to join two words or statements that say different or opposite things • *I wanted to go but I couldn't.*

but *preposition*
except • *There's no one here but me.*

butcher *noun*
someone who runs a shop that cuts and sells meat

butler *noun*
a male servant in charge of other servants in a large private house

butt[1] *noun*
1 the thicker end of a weapon or tool **2** a large barrel **3** someone people often make fun of • *James always seems to be the butt of your jokes.*

butt[2] *verb*
to butt someone is to hit them hard with your head **to butt in** is to interrupt suddenly or rudely

butter *noun*
butter is a fatty yellow food made from cream

butterfly *noun* (**butterflies**)
1 an insect with a thin body and large white or brightly coloured wings **2** a stroke you use when swimming on your front, by raising both arms together over your head



butterfly

butterscotch *noun*
butterscotch is a kind of hard toffee

buttocks *plural noun*
your buttocks are the part of the body on which you sit, your bottom

button *noun*
1 a flat plastic or metal disc sewn on clothes and passed through a buttonhole to fasten them **2** a small knob you press to work an electric device

button *verb*
to button clothes or to button up clothes is to fasten them with buttons

buttress *noun*
a support built against a wall

buy *verb* (**buying, bought**)
to buy something is to get it by paying for it • *I bought a CD yesterday.* **buyer** *noun* someone who buys something

buy *noun*
something you buy • *That was a good buy.*

buzz *noun*
a sharp humming sound, like bees make

buzz *verb*
to buzz is to make a buzzing sound

buzzard *noun*
a bird of prey like a large hawk



buzzard

buzzer *noun*
an alarm or signalling device that makes a buzzing noise

by *preposition, adverb*
1 near, close • *Sit by me.* **2** using; by means of • *I fixed the tyre by sticking on a patch.* **3** before • *Do your homework by tomorrow.* **4** past • *She went by the window.* • *I can't get by.* **by and large** mostly, on the whole **by the way** a phrase you use to begin a new topic

bye *noun*
a run scored in cricket when the batsman has not touched the ball

bye-bye *exclamation*
(*informal*) goodbye

bypass *noun*
a road that takes traffic round the edge of a town or city rather than going through the centre

bystander *noun*
someone who sees something happening but takes no part in it

byte *noun*
(*in computing*) a unit that measures data or memory

Cc

C
1 short for Celsius or centigrade **2** 100 in Roman numerals

cab *noun*
1 a taxi **2** the place for the driver in a lorry, bus, train, or crane

cabbage *noun*
a large round green vegetable with layers of closely packed leaves

cabin *noun*
1 a hut or shelter **2** one of the small rooms on a ship for sleeping in **3** the part of an aircraft where the passengers sit

cabinet *noun*
1 a cupboard with shelves and doors, used for storing things **2** the group of chief ministers who run the government

cable *noun*
1 a thick rope, wire, or chain used for lifting heavy loads or tying up ships **2** a telegram sent overseas

cable television *noun*
a television system in which programmes are transmitted along underground cables into people's houses

cackle *noun*
1 a cackle is the clucking of a hen **2** a cackle is also a loud, silly laugh **3** cackle is stupid chattering

cactus *noun* (**cacti**)
a fleshy plant that is covered in prickles and grows in hot, dry places