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be-think \bi-'thɪŋk, bē- \ *vt* -thought \-'thɒt; -think-*ing* (bef. 12c) 1 *a* : REMEMBER, RECALL *b* : to cause (oneself) to be reminded 2 : to cause (oneself) to consider
be-tide \bi-'tɪd, bē- \ *vt* (12c) : to happen esp. as if by fate ~ *vt* : to happen to : BEFALL — used chiefly in the phrase *woe betide* (<woe ~ our enemies)
be-times \bi-'tɪmz, bē- \ *adv* (13c) 1 : in good time : EARLY 2 *archaic* : in a short time : SPEEDILY 3 : at times : OCCASIONALLY
be-tise \bā-'tɪz \ *n*, *pl* be-tises \-'tɪz \ [F, fr. *bête* idiot, fool, lit., beast] 1 : an act of foolishness or stupidity 2 : lack of good sense (1798) 1 : an act of foolishness or stupidity 2 : lack of good sense
be-to-ken \bi-'tɒ-kən, bē- \ *vt* -to-kened; -to-ken-*ing* \-'tɒk-nɪŋ, -'tɒ-kən- \ (15c) 1 : to typify beforehand : PRESAGE 2 : to give evidence of : SHOW
be-tray \bi-'trā, bē- \ *vb* [ME, fr. *be-* + *trayen* to betray, fr. AF *trahir*, fr. L *trahere* — more at TRAITOR] *vt* (13c) 1 : to lead astray; *esp* : SEDUCE 2 : to deliver to an enemy by treachery 3 : to fall or desert esp. in time of need (<ed his family) 4 *a* : to reveal unintentionally (<one's true feelings) *b* : SHOW, INDICATE *c* : to disclose in violation of confidence (< a secret) ~ *vi* : to prove false *syn* see REVEAL — *be-tray-al* \bi-'trā(-ə) \ *n* — *be-tray-er* \bi-'trā-ər \ *n*
be-troth \bi-'trɒθ, bē- \ *vt* [ME, fr. *be-* + *trouthe* truth, troth] (14c) 1 : to promise to marry 2 : to give in marriage
be-troth-al \bi-'trɒθ-əl, -'trɒ-, -thəl \ *n* (1831) 1 : the act of betrothing or fact of being betrothed 2 : a mutual promise or contract for a future marriage
be-trothed \bi-'trɒθɪd, -'trɒθt \ *n* (1588) : the person to whom one is betrothed
bet-ta \bē-'tə \ *n* [NL, prob. fr. Jav *wadēr*, a freshwater fish] (1927) : any of a genus (*Betta*) of the family Anabantidae of small brilliantly colored long-finned freshwater bony fishes of southeastern Asia; *esp* : SIAMESE FIGHTING FISH
bet-ter \bē-'tər \ *adj*, comparative of GOOD [ME *bettre*, fr. OE *betera*; akin to OE *bōt* remedy, *skt* *bhadra* fortunate] (bef. 12c) 1 : greater than half (for the ~ part of an hour) 2 : improved in health or mental attitude (feeling ~) 3 : more attractive, favorable, or commendable (<in ~ circumstances) 4 : more advantageous or effective (<a ~ solution) 5 : improved in accuracy or performance (building a ~ engine)
bet-ter *vb* (bef. 12c) 1 : to make better; as *a* : to make more tolerable or acceptable (trying to ~ the lot of slum dwellers) *b* : to make more complete or perfect (looked forward to ~ing her acquaintance with the new neighbors) 2 : to surpass in excellence : EXCEL ~ *vi* : to become better *syn* see IMPROVE
bet-ter *adv*, comparative of WELL (12c) 1 *a* : in a more excellent manner (<sings ~ than I do) *b* : to greater advantage : PREFERABLY (<some things are ~ left unsaid) 2 *a* : to a higher or greater degree (<he knows the story ~ than you do) *b* : MORE (<it is ~ than nine miles to the next town)
bet-ter *n* (12c) 1 *a* : something better (<I expected ~ from them) *b* : a superior esp. in merit or rank (<was respectful of his ~s) 2 : ADVANTAGE, VICTORY (<get the ~ of her)
bet-ter verbal auxiliary (1831) : had better (<you ~ hurry)
bet-ter half *n* (1580) : SPOUSE
bet-ter-ment \bē-'tər-mənt \ *n* (1598) 1 : a making or becoming better 2 : an improvement that adds to the value of a property or facility
bet-ter-off \bē-'tər-ɒf \ *adj* (ca. 1859) 1 : being in comfortable economic circumstances (<the ~ people live in the older section of town) 2 : being in a more advantageous position
betting shop *n* (1852) *Brit* : a shop where bets are taken
bet-tor or **bet-ter** \bē-'tər \ *n* (1609) : one that bets
be-tween \bi-'twēn, bē- \ *prep* [ME *betwene*, prep. & adv., fr. OE *betwēonum*, fr. *be-* + *twēonum* (dat. pl.) (akin to Goth *twēihnai* two each); akin to OE *twā* two] (bef. 12c) 1 *a* : by the common action of : jointly engaging (shared the work ~ the two of them) (talks ~ the three — Time) *b* : in common to : shared by (<divided ~ his four grandchildren) 2 *a* : in the time, space, or interval that separates *b* : in intermediate relation to 3 *a* : from one to another of (air service ~ Miami and Chicago) *b* : serving to connect or unite in a relationship (as difference, likeness, or proportion) (<a one-to-one correspondence ~ sets) *c* : setting apart (the line ~ fact and fancy) 4 *a* : in preference for one or the other of (<had no difficulty deciding ~ the two) *b* : in point of comparison of (<not much to choose ~ the two coats) 5 : in confidence restricted to (<a secret ~ you and me) 6 : taking together the combined effect of (<work and family life, they have no time for hobbies)
usage There is a persistent but unfounded notion that *between* can be used only of two items and that *among* must be used for more than two. *Between* has been used of more than two since Old English; it is esp. appropriate to denote a one-to-one relationship, regardless of the number of items. It can be used when the number is unspecified (<economic cooperation *between* nations), when more than two are enumerated (<*between* you and me and the lamppost) (<partitioned *between* Austria, Prussia, and Russia — Nathaniel Benchley), and even when only one item is mentioned (but repetition is implied) (<pausing *between* every sentence to rap the floor — George Eliot). *Among* is more appropriate where the emphasis is on distribution rather than individual relationships (<discontent *among* the peasants). When *among* is automatically chosen for more than two, English idiom may be strained (<a worthy book that nevertheless falls *among* many stools — John Simon) (<the author alternates *among* mod slang, clichés and quotes from literary giants — A. H. Johnston).
between *adv* (bef. 12c) : in an intermediate space or interval
between-ness \bē-'nəs \ *n* (1884) : the quality or state of being between two others in an ordered mathematical set
be-tween-times \bi-'tɪmz \ *adv* (1580) : at or during intervals
be-tween-whiles \bi-'hwɪ(-ə)lz, -wɪ(-ə)lz \ *adv* (1656) : BETWEENTIMES
be-twixt \bi-'twɪks, bē- \ *adv* or *prep* [ME, fr. OE *betwux*, fr. *be-* + *twixt* (akin to Goth *twēihnai* two each) — more at BETWEEN] (bef. 12c) : BETWEEN
betwixt and **between** *adv* or *adj* (1789) : in a midway position : neither one thing nor the other
Beu-lah \byū-'lə \ *n* (1684) : an idyllic land near the end of life's journey in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*

beurre blanc \bər-'blā \ *n* [F, lit., white butter] (1931) : a seasoned butter sauce (as for fish) flavored with white wine, shallots, and vinegar or lemon juice
beurre man-lé \mān-'yā \ *n* [F, lit., handled butter] (1939) : flour and butter kneaded together used as a thickener in sauces
beurre noir \nər-'wār \ *n* [F, lit., black butter] (1830) : butter heated until brown or black and often flavored with vinegar or lemon juice
BeV *abbr* billion electron volts
BEV *abbr* Black English vernacular
bevel \bē-'vəl \ *adj* (ca. 1600) : OBLIQUE, BEVELED (<a ~ edge)
bevel *n* [MF *bevel*, fr. OF *baivel*, fr. *baif* with open mouth, fr. *baer* to yawn — more at ABEYANCE] (1610) 1 : an instrument consisting of two rules or arms joined together and opening to any angle for drawing angles or adjusting surfaces to be cut at an angle 2 *a* : the angle that one surface or line makes with another when they are not at right angles *b* : the slant of such a surface or line 3 : the part of printing type extending from face to shoulder
bevel *vb* -eled or -elled; -el-*ing* or -el-*ing* \bē-'lɪŋ, 'bē-və- \ *vt* (1677) : to cut or shape to a bevel ~ *vi* : INCLINE, SLANT
bevel gear *n* (ca. 1790) : either of a pair of toothed wheels whose working surfaces are inclined to nonparallel axes
bever-age \bē-'vɛr-, 'bē-və- \ *n* [ME, fr. AF, fr. *beivre* to drink, fr. L *bibere* — more at POTABLE] (14c) : a drinkable liquid
bevy \bē-'vɛ \ *n*, *pl* bevs \ [ME *bevey*] (15c) 1 : a large group or collection (<a ~ of girls) 2 : a group of animals and esp. quail
be-wall \bi-'wāl \ *vt* (14c) 1 : to wail over 2 : to express deep sorrow for usu. by wailing and lamentation (<wringing her hands and ~ing her fate) *syn* see DEPLORE
be-ware \bi-'wer, bē- \ *vb* [ME *been war*, fr. *been* to be + *war* careful — more at BE, WARE] *vi* (14c) : to be on one's guard (<of the dog) ~ *vi* 1 : to take care of (<your wallet) 2 : to be wary of (<we must ~ the exceedingly tenuous generalization — Matthew Lipman)
be-whisk-ered \bē-'hwɪsk-əd, -'wɪs- \ *adj* (1820) : having whiskers
be-wigged \bi-'wɪgd, bē- \ *adj* (1774) : wearing a wig
be-wil-der \bi-'wɪl-dər, bē- \ *vt* -wil-dered; -wil-der-*ing* \-d(-ə)rɪŋ \ (1684) 1 : to cause to lose one's bearings 2 : to perplex or confuse esp. by a complexity, variety, or multitude of objects or considerations *syn* see PUZZLE — *be-wil-dered-ly* *adv* — *be-wil-dered-ness* *n* — *be-wil-der-ing-ly* \-d(-ə)rɪŋ-lɪ \ *adv*
be-wil-der-ment \bē-'wɪl-dər-mənt \ *n* (1811) 1 : the quality or state of being bewildered 2 : a bewildering tangle or confusion
be-witch \bi-'wɪtʃ, bē- \ *vt* (13c) 1 *a* : to influence or affect esp. injuriously by witchcraft *b* : to cast a spell over 2 : to attract as if by the power of witchcraft : ENCHANT, FASCINATE (<ed by her beauty) ~ *vi* : to bewitch someone or something — *be-witch-ery* \-wɪtʃ(-ə)rɪ \ *n* — *be-witch-ing-ly* \-wɪtʃɪŋ-lɪ \ *adv*
be-witch-ment \bē-'wɪtʃ-mənt \ *n* (1607) 1 *a* : the act or power of bewitching *b* : a spell that bewitches 2 : the state of being bewitched
be-wray \bi-'rā \ *vt* [ME, fr. *be-* + *wreyen* to accuse, fr. OE *wrēgan*; akin to OHG *ruogan* to accuse] (13c) *archaic* : DIVULGE, BETRAY
bey \bā \ *n* [Turk, gentleman, chief] (1537) 1 *a* : a provincial governor in the Ottoman Empire *b* : the former native ruler of Tunis or Tunisia 2 — used as a courtesy title in Turkey and Egypt
be-yond \bē-'ænd \ *adv* [ME, prep. & adv., fr. OE *begeondan*, fr. *be-* + *geondan* beyond, fr. *geond* yond — more at YOND] (bef. 12c) 1 : on or to the farther side : FARTHER 2 : in addition : BESIDES
beyond *prep* (bef. 12c) 1 : on or to the farther side of : at a greater distance than (<the horizon) 2 *a* : out of the reach or sphere of (<a task ~ his strength) *b* : in a degree or amount surpassing (<beautiful ~ measure) *c* : out of the comprehension of (<his reasoning is ~ me) 3 : in addition to : BESIDES (<doing work ~ his regular duties)
beyond *n* (14c) 1 : something that lies beyond 2 : something that lies outside the scope of ordinary experience; *specif* : HEREAFTER
be-zant \bē-'zənt, bə-'zənt \ *n* [ME *besant*, fr. AF, fr. ML *Byzantius* Byzantine, fr. *Byzantium*, ancient name of Istanbul] (13c) 1 : SOLIDUS 1 2 : a flat disk used in architectural ornament
be-zel \bē-'zəl, 'bē- \ *n* [prob. fr. dial. form of F *biseau* bezel, fr. MF] (1611) 1 : a rim that holds a transparent covering (as on a watch, clock, or headlight) or that is rotatable and has special markings (as on a watch) 2 : the oblique side or face of a cut gem; *specif* : the upper faceted portion of a brilliant projecting from the setting — see BRILLIANT illustration 3 : a usu. metal rim of a piece of jewelry in which an ornament (as a gem) is set
be-zique \bē-'zɪk \ *n* [F *bésique*] (1861) : a card game similar to pinochle that is played with a pack of 64 cards
be-zoar \bē-'zɔr \ *n* [MF, fr. ML, fr. Ar dial. *bezawār*, fr. Ar *bzahr*, fr. Pers *pād-zahr*, fr. *pād* protecting (against) + *zahr* poison] (1577) : any of various calculi found chiefly in the gastrointestinal organs and formerly believed to possess magical properties — called also *bezoar stone*
bf *abbr* boldface
BF *abbr 1 bachelor of forestry 2 board foot 3 brought forward
BFA *abbr* bachelor of fine arts
bg *abbr 1 background 2 bag 3 beige 4 being
BG or **B** *Gen* *abbr* brigadier general
BGH *abbr* bovine growth hormone
B-girl *n* [prob. fr. *bar* + *girl*] (1936) : a woman who entertains bar patrons and encourages them to spend freely
BGS *abbr* bachelor of general studies
Bh *symbol* bohrium
BH *abbr 1 bill of health 2 Brinell hardness
BHA \bē-'chā \ *n* [butylated hydroxyanisole] (1950) : a phenolic antioxidant $C_{11}H_{16}O_2$ used esp. to preserve fats and oils in food
Bha-ga-vad \gā-'vād \ *n* [Skt *Bhagavadgītā*, lit., song of the blessed one (Krishna)] (ca. 1785) : a Hindu devotional work in poetic form
bhak-ti \bək-'tɪ \ *n* [Skt, lit., portion] (1832) : devotion to a deity constituting a way to salvation in Hinduism***