

WEBSTER'S
NEW UNIVERSAL
UNABRIDGED
DICTIONARY

WEBSTER'S NEW UNIVERSAL UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

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SYMBOLS, AND FORMS OF ADDRESS

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Dorset & Baber

WEBSTER'S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY

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A Dictionary

A Dictionary
A Dictionary
A Dictionary
Fiction, Names and
A Dictionary
Names and
Abbreviations
Writing a
Practical Book
Forms of Address
Tables of Weights and Measures

FULL-PAGE

bear

the end; as, religion will *bear* us through the evils of life.

to bear up; to support; to keep from falling; as, religious hope *bears up* the mind.

to bear with; to put up patiently with; to tolerate.

Bear, signifying *to bring forth*, has the past participle, when used passively, spelled *born*, but when used after the verb *to have*, it is spelled *borne*. Thus, a child was *born*; but, she has *borne* a child. In all the other senses, the past participle is spelled *borne*; as, I have *borne* the expenses; the expenses must be *borne*.

beär, *v. i.* 1. to carry or sustain a heavy burden.

But man is born to bear. —Pope.

2. to endure; to be patient; as, my burden is greater than I can bear.

3. to produce fruit; to be fruitful; as, the tree bears well.

This age to blossom, and the next to bear. —Dryden.

4. to press (with on or upon); as, to bear hard upon an opponent.

5. to take effect; to succeed; to have an influence; as, to bring matters to bear.

6. to be situated, as to the point of compass, with respect to something else; as, the land bore southeast by east from the ship.

7. to relate or refer (to); with on or upon; as, his argument bears upon the subject with force.

8. to extend, point, lie, or move in a given direction; as, the road bore left; bring the guns to bear.

9. to be capable of sustaining weight; as, the ice will bear.

10. to be oppressive; weigh; as, grief bears heavily on her.

to bear away; in nautical language, to keep or change a ship's course away from the wind.

to bear back; to retire in retreat.

to bear in; to tend toward, as a ship approaching the land; opposed to *bear off*.

to bear off; to remove to a greater distance.

to bear up; to tend or move toward; as, to bear up to one another; also, to endure, as under a strain; to have fortitude; to be firm; as, to bear up under afflictions.

Syn.—suffer, endure, support, maintain, uphold, sustain, undergo, tolerate, carry, convey, waft, produce, yield.

beär, *n.*; *pl.* **beärs** or **beär**, [ME. *berc*; AS. *bero*, orig. sense, "the brown one."]

1. a plantigrade carnivorous mammal of the genus *Ursus*, family *Ursidae*. There are many species, of which the grizzly bear and polar bear are the most formidable. Bears, while belonging to the *Carnivora*, live, to a large extent, on insects, fruits, roots, etc. They have stout, heavy bodies, usually thickly covered with fur, and very short tails. They are native to temperate and arctic zones. The brown or black bear of Europe and Asia is the *Ursus arctos*. The American black bear, *Ursus americanus*, of which the brown or cinnamon bear is a variant, has black shining hair, and is rarely more than five feet in length. The grizzly bear (*Ursus ferox* or

allied to the true bears by resemblance in form or habits, as the ant bear, the woolly bear, the sea bear, the water bear, and the sand bear.



BROWN BEAR
(*Ursus arctos*)

3. [B-] in astronomy, either of two constellations in the northern hemisphere, called the *Great* and *Little Bear*, or *Ursa Major* and *Ursa Minor*. In the tail of the *Little Bear* is the polestar.

4. in nautical usage, a scouring block used in cleaning decks.

5. in mechanics, a press for punching holes.

6. in metallurgy, a rough, conglomerate mass found in blast furnaces after long use.

7. a bearlike person; anyone who is clumsy, ill-mannered, etc.; a person of coarse, rough habits or speech.

8. in the stock exchange, etc., a speculator who sells and promises to deliver shares, commodities, etc. which he does not yet own, hoping to buy them at a lower price before the date of delivery; a manipulator who sells short; opposed to *bull*.

beär, *a.* or *of* favorable to bears (sense 8) and their manipulations for lowering prices of stocks, etc.

beär, *v. t.*; beared (bärd), *pl.*, *pp.*; bearing, *ppr.*

1. to reduce or try to reduce the price of, or prices in, for speculative purposes; as, to bear a railroad stock; to bear oats.

beär'ä-ble, *a.* capable of being borne; tolerable; endurable.

beär'ä-bly, *adv.* in a bearable manner.

beär bäit'ing, the act of harassing, tormenting, badgering, or worrying a chained bear, as by setting on dogs, for the entertainment of spectators.

beär'bä-ne, *n.* a poisonous plant, of the aconite family.

beär'ber'ry, *n.*; *pl.* **beär'ber'ries**, 1. a medicinal plant, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*, of the heath family, having small bright-green leaves, white or pinkish flowers, and red berries.

2. a related shrub with black berries.

3. a variety of holly.

beär'bine, *n.* in botany, the bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*.

beär'cat, *n.* 1. an Asiatic variety of civet with a prehensile tail.

2. a panda.

3. a strong, brave, fierce fighter.

beär cat'är-pil'lär, a larval tiger moth, especially of the genus *Euxrepia*; a woolly bear.

beär'd, *n.* [ME. *berde*; AS. *beard*; O.H.G. *bart*; Dan. *baard*; L. *barba*, beard.]

1. (a) the hair that grows on the chin and cheeks and around the lips, especially of a man; hence, a mark of virility; (b) this hair, especially on the chin and cheek, when worn long or trimmed in various shapes.

2. the awn or sharp prickles on the ears of some kinds of grain; also, parallel hairs, or a tuft of stiff hairs, terminating the leaves of plants.

3. a barb or sharp process of an arrow, or other instrument, bent backward from the point to prevent its being easily drawn out.

4. the part of a horse's lower jaw which bears the curb of a bridle, underneath the lower mandible and above the chin.

5. the rays of a comet, emitted toward that part of the heaven to which its proper motion seems to direct it. [Archaic.]

6. (a) the byssus of certain kinds of mollusks, consisting of fine threads or hairs, by which they fasten themselves to rocks, etc.; (b) the gills or respiratory organs of the oyster and other bivalves.

7. in insects, two small, oblong, fleshy bodies, placed just above the trunk, as in gnats, moths, and butterflies.

8. the long hairs around the face or chin of some animals, as the goat, the cat, etc.

bearing

9. in printing, the outside, beardlike shading of some kinds of ornamental type, formerly much used.

beär'd, *v. t.*; bearded, *pl.*, *pp.*; bearding, *ppr.*

1. to take by the beard; to seize, pluck, or pull the beard of, in contempt or anger.

2. to oppose or face courageously; to defy. I have been bearded by boys. —More.

3. to provide with a beard.

beär'd'ed, *a.* 1. having a beard, as a man. Bearded like the pard. —Shak.

2. in botany, having an awn or awns, as ears or heads of grain.

3. barbed or jagged, as an arrow.

beär'd grass, any one of several species of coarse grass of the genus *Andropogon*.

beär'd'ie (-i), *n.* [dim. of *beär'd*.] the loach, *Nemachilus barbatus*. [Scot.]

beär'd'less, *a.* 1. without a beard; young; not having arrived at manhood.

2. in botany, having no awn or awns.

beär'd'less-ness, *n.* the state or quality of being beardless.

beär'd moss, a grayish moss, *Usnea barbata*, growing on trees.

beär'd'tongue (-tung), *n.* a plant of the genus *Penstemon*, so called from its tongue-shaped bearded stamen.

beär'er, *n.* 1. in a general sense, one who or that which bears, sustains, or carries.

2. one who carries packages, letters, or news; as, a *bearer* of good news; a *bearer* of dispatches.

3. one who carries a body to the grave, at a funeral; a pallbearer.

4. one who wears or carries anything officially, or as a duty; a sword bearer; an armor bearer.

5. a tree or plant that bears fruit or blooms; as, a good *bearer*.

6. in architecture, a post or brick wall between the ends of a piece of timber, to support it; often, any support.

7. in heraldry, a figure in an achievement, placed by the side of a shield, and seeming to support it; generally the figure of a beast. The figure of a human being, used for a like purpose, is called a *tenant*.

8. in India, (a) a house servant similar to a valet; (b) one of the carriers of a palanquin.

9. in commercial language, any person having, holding, or presenting a note, check, draft, etc.; as, pay to *bearer*.

10. in printing, (a) a type-high metal support for the sides of matter that is to be set into a plate, to prevent the spreading of or damage to the type on the edges; (b) a piece of wood or metal locked into a platen press, or built onto the bed of a cylinder press, to sustain the impression.

beär gärd'en, 1. a place for bear baiting or similar pastimes.

2. a scene of disorderly conduct or riot; as, the meeting of the city council degenerated into a *bear garden*.

beär grass, 1. any of a group of plants of the lily family, with grasslike leaves and small, white flowers.

2. any of various similar plants, as a kind of camass.

beär'härd, *n.* a bear's keeper; an attendant on bears.

beär'hound, *n.* a dog of the hound variety, used in hunting bears.

beär'ing, *n.* 1. the manner in which a person bears or conducts himself; gesture; mien; behavior.

I know him by his *bearing*. —Shak.

2. the situation of an object, with respect to another object, by which it is supposed to have a connection with it or influence upon it, or to be influenced by it; relation.

But of this frame, the *bearings* and the ties. —Pope.

3. in architecture, the portion of a piece of timber which rests upon, or is inserted into a wall; also, the wall that supports it.

4. in navigation, the position of a distant object with regard to a ship's position, as on the bow, on the lee quarter, etc.; the direction or point of the compass in which an object is seen.

5. [pl.] in heraldry, any figure on the field. A carriage covered with armorial *bearings*. —Thackeray.

6. the act, capacity, or time of producing or giving birth; as, the *bearing* of a child.

7. anything borne or produced, as crop, fruit, etc.



POLAR BEAR
(*Ursus maritimus*)

horribilis) is a ferocious animal, and has a bulky and unwieldy form, but is nevertheless capable of great rapidity of motion. The polar or white bear, *Ursus maritimus*, is an animal possessed of great strength and fierceness. It lives in the polar regions, chiefly on the ice, feeds on fish, seals, etc., and usually is seven to eight feet in length. The only South American species of bear is the *Ursus ornatus*, or spectacled bear, so called because of a peculiar marking about the eye suggesting spectacles. The Syrian bear, *Ursus syriacus*, and the sloth bear, *Ursus or Melursus labiatus*, the latter a native of India and Ceylon, are among the notable species. *Ursus lorquatus* and *Ursus japonicus* are the black bears of the Himalayas and Japan, respectively.

2. in zoology, any one of several animals

bearing cloth

8. in machinery, any part of a machine in or on which another part revolves, slides, etc.
9. endurance; patience under affliction; as, my trials are past *bearings*.
10. relevant; meaning; significance; relation; connection; application; as, your remarks have no *bearing* upon the subject.
11. [pl.] in shipbuilding, (a) the widest part of a ship below the gunwale; (b) a ship's water line when she is perfectly trimmed.
to lose one's *bearings*: to become lost or bewildered as to direction.
to take *bearings*: to ascertain one's position, as by the compass; hence, figuratively, to discover how matters stand; to ascertain the conditions.
Syn.—deportment, demeanor, carriage, behavior, conduct, manner, mien.

bearing cloth, the cloth in which a child is wrapped when carried to be baptized.

bearing rein, a short rein for keeping or pulling a horse's head up; a checkrein.

bearish, *a.* 1. bearlike; rude, rough, cross, surly, etc.
2. directed toward or causing a lowering of prices in the stock exchange, etc.

bearishness, *n.* the manner of a bear; rude behavior.

bear-leader, *n.* 1. one who leads a bear, or travels with a bear, as for exhibition purposes.
2. a tutor; especially, one who conducts a young man on educational travels.

bearlike, *a.* resembling a bear in appearance or behavior.

bearn, *n.* a bairn. [Obs.]

bear's-breech, *n.* 1. any of various species of plants of the genus *Acanthus*.
2. the cowparsnip, *Heracleum Sphondylium*, common in England.

bear's-ear, *n.* the *Primula auricula*, a variety of primrose with yellow flowers and leaves shaped like a bear's ear.

bear's-foot, *n.* a bad-smelling variety of hellebore, with toothed leaves and clusters of five-petaled, cup-shaped flowers.

bearskin, *n.* 1. the skin or fur of a bear.
2. a rough, shaggy cloth for overcoats.
3. anything made from bearskin, as a rug, coat, etc.

4. a large headress, made of bear's fur, especially one worn by a drum major or by the soldiers of certain British regiments.

bear's-paw, *n.* an ornamental East Indian bivalve shell.

Bear State (bār), Arkansas: a nickname.

bearward, *n.* a keeper of bears; a bearherd. [Rare.]

bearwood, *n.* a small tree of the western United States, the bark of which is used as a laxative: also called *cascara buckthorn*.

bearwort, *n.* a European herb, spicknel or meadow, *Meum athamanticum*.

beast, *n.* [ME. *beeste*, *beste*; OFr. *beste*; L. *bestia*, a beast.]

1. any four-footed animal, which may be used for labor, food, or sport; distinguished from birds, insects, fishes, and man, and applied especially to large animals; as, *beasts* of burden; *beasts* of the chase.

2. any irrational animal, as opposed to man; as in the phrase, *man and beast*.
3. a brutal man; a person brutal, coarse, filthy, or acting in a manner unworthy of a rational creature.

4. qualities or impulses like an animal's; as, it's the *beast* in him.

5. a game at cards similar to loo; also, a forfeit at this game. [Obs.]

beast of burden; any animal used for carrying things.

beast of prey; any animal that hunts or kills other animals for food.

beast royal; the lion. [Obs.]

beasthood, *n.* the state of being, or the nature of, a beast.

beastings, *n. pl.* beatings.

beastish, *a.* like a beast; brutal.

beastlike, *a.* like a beast; brutal. [Obs.]

beastliness, *n.* 1. the quality or state of being beastly; bestiality.
2. a beastly act.

3. disagreeable or unpleasant quality. [Colloq.]

beastly, *a.* comp. *beastlier*; superl. *beastliest*.

1. like a beast; brutal; coarse; filthy; contrary to the nature and dignity of man.

2. having the form and nature of a beast.

3. nasty; unpleasant; as, *beastly* weather. [Slang.]

Syn.—brutish, base, bestial, carnal, coarse, sensual, swinish, vile, irrational, degrading.

beastly, *adv.* very; as, *beastly* bad news. [Brit.]

beat, *v. t.*: *beat*, *pt.*; *beating*, *ppr.*; *beaten*, *beat*, *pp.* [ME. *beaten*; AS. *beatan*, to beat.]

1. to strike or hit repeatedly; to pound.

2. to punish by striking repeatedly and hard; to flog; to spank; to whip.

3. to mark (time or rhythm) by tapping, etc.

4. to break, bruise, or pulverize by beating or pounding, as pepper or spices.

5. to shape or flatten by hammering, as gold or other malleable substance; to hammer into any form; to forge: often followed by *out*; as, to *beat* out gold.

6. to hunt through; to search; specifically, to shake by beating, or to make a noise in, to rouse game; as, to *beat* the woods.

7. to mix by stirring or striking repeatedly with a utensil; to whip (cream, etc.).

8. to strike or dash repeatedly against, as water or wind.

9. to make flat or smooth by walking or riding; to form by treading; as, we *beat* a path to the road.

10. to cheat; to swindle; to defraud; to trick: often followed by *out*; as, he *beat* me out of the money. [Colloq.]

11. to overcome in a battle, contest, etc.; to defeat; as, he always *beats* her at tennis.

12. to harass; to exercise severely; to perplex; as, to *beat* the brains about logic.

13. to flutter or flap; to move (wings, etc.) up and down.

14. to signal or give notice of, by beat of drum; as, to *beat* an alarm, the reveille, etc.

15. to puzzle; to perplex; to pass (one's) understanding; as, his actions *beat* me. [Colloq.]

16. to make, force, or drive by or as by flailing; as, he *beat* his way through the crowd.

to beat back; to compel to retire or return.

to beat down; (a) [Colloq.] to lower the price by importunity or argument; (b) to quell or crush; as, to *beat down* opposition.

to beat in; to teach or instill by repetition of instruction.

to beat off; to repel or drive back.

to beat up (on); to give a beating to in a fight; to maul; to thrash. [Slang.]

Syn.—hit, strike, belabor, drub, maul, pummel, thump, bang, thwack, defeat, vanquish, conquer, overcome.

beat, *v. i.* 1. to strike, hit, or dash repeatedly and, usually, hard.

2. to move or sound rhythmically; to throb.

3. to hunt through underbrush, woods, etc., for game.

4. to take beating or stirring; as, this scream doesn't *beat* well.

5. to have a beat or rhythm; to pulsate, vibrate, etc.; as, the heart *beats*.

6. to make a sound by being struck, as a drum.

7. to win. [Colloq.]

8. in nautical usage, to progress by tacking into the wind.

9. in radio, to combine two waves of different frequencies, thus producing additional frequencies equal to the difference between these.

to beat about; (a) to hunt or look through or around; (b) in nautical usage, to tack into the wind.

beat, *n.* 1. a stroke; a striking; a blow.

2. a recurring stroke; a pulsation; as, the *beat* of the pulse.

3. the unit of musical rhythm; as, four *beats* to a measure.

4. the rise or fall of the hand or foot, in marking the divisions of time in music.

5. a grace note in music, struck immediately before the note it is intended to ornament.

6. in acoustics and music, the regularly recurring amplification of sound produced by two simultaneous sounds having different rates of vibration.

7. a round or course which is frequently gone over; as, a policeman's *beat*.

8. a person or thing that surpasses; as, you never saw the *beat* of it. [Colloq.]

9. a cheat or swindler; one who does not pay his debts; a sponge; a dead beat. [Colloq.]

10. in journalism, the act of obtaining and publishing a piece of news before rival newspapers; also, the news itself; as, the story was a *beat*.

beau geste

11. in hunting, a diligent search for game, as by striking bushes to drive it forth.

12. in fencing, a quick blow on the adversary's blade.

13. in radio, one cycle of a frequency formed by beating.

beat, *n.* the heavy, matted growth of vegetation from moorland or fallow land, which is burned off to enrich the land for plowing. [Brit. Dial.]

beat, *v. t.* to remove the sod or surface vegetation from. [Brit. Dial.]

beat, *n.* flax or hemp bound in small bundles ready for macerating: written also *beet* and *bait*. [Brit. Dial.]

beat, *a.* 1. weary; tired; worn out. [Slang.]

2. of or belonging to a group of young people in the United States who reject conventional attitudes, dress, etc. and affect extreme slang speech and an interest in jazz music and some other forms of art expression. [Slang.]

beat'en, *a.* 1. conquered; vanquished.

2. made smooth by treading; worn by use; as, a *beaten* path.

3. shaped or formed by beating or hammering; as, *beaten* brass.

4. exhausted; tired out.

5. struck with repeated blows; whipped.

6. searched through for game.

7. mixed, as ingredients in cooking.

8. puzzled; confused. [Colloq.]

beat'er, *n.* 1. one who or that which beats.

2. an instrument for beating.

3. in hunting, one who strikes bushes, etc. to drive game from cover.

beat'er-up, *n.* one who beats for game.

be-a-tif'ic, **be-a-tif'ic-al**, *a.* [L. *beatificus*, from *beatus*, happy, and *facere*, to make.]

1. having the power to bless or make happy; making blessed or blissful.

2. showing happiness or delight; blissful; joyful; as, a *beatific* smile.

be-a-tif'ic-ally, *adv.* in a beatific manner.

be-a-tif'ic-ate, *v. t.* to beatify. [Obs.]

be-a-tif'ic-ation, *n.* the act of beatifying, or the state of being beatified; especially, in the Roman Catholic Church, the act or process of declaring a dead person to be among the blessed in heaven: he is then entitled to public worship and is usually, but not necessarily, canonized.

be-a-tif'y, *v. i.*; *beatified*, *pt.*, *pp.*; *beatifying*, *ppr.* 1. to make happy; to bless.

2. in the Roman Catholic Church, to declare by a papal decree (a deceased person) to be one of the blessed in heaven, and, though not necessarily canonized, to be worthy of public worship.

3. to ascribe extraordinary virtue or excellence to; to regard as saintly or blessed.

beat'ing, *n.* 1. the act of a person or thing that beats.

2. the act of conquering or the state of being conquered; a defeat.

3. in nautical language, the act of sailing against the wind, by tacking.

4. a pulsation or throbbing; as, the *beating* of the heart.

5. a beat (sense 6).

be-a-ti-tude, *n.* [Fr. *béatitude*; L. *beatitudo*, from *beatus*, happy, blessed.]

1. perfect blessedness or happiness.

2. in the Roman Catholic Church, same as *beatification*.

3. a blessing.

the Beatitudes; the pronouncements in the Sermon on the Mount, which begin "Blessed are the poor in spirit": Matt. v. 3-12.

beat'nik, *n.* [beat, *a. 2*, and Russ. *-nik*, equivalent to Eng. *-er*.] a member of the beat group. [Slang.]

beau (bō), *n.*; *pl.* *beaus*, *beaux* (bōz). [Fr. *beau*, *bel*, *f. belle*, from L. *bellus*, pretty, fair.]

1. a man greatly concerned with his personal appearance and with fashion; a dandy.

2. a man who devotes himself to a lady; a sweetheart; a lover. [Colloq.]

Syn.—gallant, sweetheart, lover, suitor.

Beau Brummell (bō), [after George Bryan Brummell, 1778-1840, Englishman famous for his fashionable dress and manners.] a dandy or fop.

beau'fin (bō'), *n.* a biffin.

Beaufort scale (bō'), [after Sir Francis Beaufort (1774-1857), Brit. naval officer who invented it in 1805.] in meteorology, a scale of wind velocities ranging from 0 for velocities of less than one mile per hour (a calm) to 12 for velocities of more than 75 miles per hour (a hurricane).

beau geste (zhést), [Fr.]

1. a fine or graceful gesture.

be, bull, brute, turn, up; cry, myth; cat, machine, ace, church, chord; gem, anger, (Fr.) bon, as; this, thin; azure