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Merriam-Webster's
Advanced
LEARNER'S
ENGLISH DICTIONARY



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Pronunciation

yer] **b** or **the Bar Brit**: the profession of a barrister **c** US: the test that a person must pass in order to be a lawyer • She passed *the bar* on her first try. • *the bar exam/examination*

7 [count] **music** **a**: a line in written music that shows where a measure begins **b**: the beats between two bars in a piece of music • I'm not sure I know that song. Can you hum a few bars? [=measures]

behind bars: in jail • He has been *behind bars* for 10 years. **tend bar** US: to work as a bartender: to prepare and serve drinks at a bar • He *tends bar* at the restaurant.

2 **bar verb** bars; **barred**; **bar-ring** [+ obj]

1: to put a bar or a set of bars in front of a door, window, etc., so that people cannot go in or out of it • He *barred* the door as soon as he got in. • All the windows and doors were *barred*. • a *barred* window

2: to put something in a road, path, etc., so that people cannot get by • A herd of goats was *barring* the road. • obstacles *barring* our way

3 a: to prevent or forbid (someone) from doing something • Nothing *barred* them from meeting together. • The judge will *bar* the jurors from talking to reporters. • A federal court has *barred* the group from using the name. • Reporters were *barred* [=excluded] from the meeting. [=reporters were not allowed to go to the meeting] **b**: to prevent or forbid (something) • The decision *bars* the possibility of additional development in the area. • forms of punishment *barred* by the Constitution

no holds barred see **2** HOLD

3 **bar prep**

1 — used in the phrase *bar none* to emphasize that a statement is completely true • She is the brightest student I've ever known, *bar none*. [=I have never known a student who is brighter than she is]

2 **Brit**: except for: *BARRING* • They have lost every match, *bar one*.

barb /'bɑ:b/ **noun**, **pl** **barbs** [count]

1: a sharp point that sticks out and backward from the point of an arrow, a fishhook, etc.

2: a clever insult or criticism • She directed/aimed a few *barbs* at reporters who had hounded her. • The candidates exchanged *barbs* during the debate.

bar-bar-i-an /bə'berɪjən/ **noun**, **pl** **-ans** [count]

1: a member of a violent or uncivilized group of people especially in past times • The book describes tribes of *barbarians* massing on the borders of the Roman Empire. • The city was invaded by *barbarians*. — often used before another noun • *Barbarian* tribes invaded from the north. • a *barbarian* invasion/attack

2: a person who does not behave in a proper way: a rude or uneducated person • The students behaved like *barbarians*. • He is well-spoken and polite but his father is a *barbarian*.

bar-bar-ic /bə'berɪk/ **adj**

1: of or relating to barbarians • *Barbaric* tribes invaded the area.

2 [more ~; most ~] **a**: very rude or offensive: not polite or proper • His table manners are *barbaric*. **b**: very cruel • They considered the custom *barbaric*. • The treatment of the prisoners was positively *barbaric*.

— **bar-bar-ic-al-ly** /bə'berɪkli/ **adv**

bar-ba-rism /'bɑ:bərɪzəm/ **noun**, **pl** **-risms**

1: cruel and violent behavior [noncount] The *barbarism* of his dictatorship cannot be ignored. [count] Such *barbarisms* cannot be tolerated.

2 [noncount]: very rude behavior • acts of social *barbarism*

bar-bar-i-ty /bə'berəti/ **noun**, **pl** **-ties**

1 [noncount]: extreme cruelty: a very cruel and violent quality • The *barbarity* of the attack was horrifying. • The photos vividly capture the war's *barbarity*.

2 [count]: a cruel act • He is accused of inflicting unimaginable *barbarities* on his own people.

bar-ba-rous /'bɑ:bərəs/ **adj** [more ~; most ~]

1: not polite or proper: very rude or offensive • His behavior was *barbarous*. • They used *barbarous* language.

2: very cruel and violent • It was a *barbarous* [=barbaric] crime. • a *barbarous* custom

— **bar-ba-rous-ly** **adv** — **bar-ba-rous-ness** **noun** [non-count]

bar-be-cue /'bɑ:bɪkju:/ **noun**, **pl** **-cues**

1 [count]: a flat metal frame that is used to cook food over hot coals or an open fire • grill a steak on the *barbecue*

2 [count]: an outdoor meal or party at which food is cooked

on a barbecue • We plan to have a *barbecue* for the whole family. — abbr. *BBQ*

3 [noncount] chiefly US, informal: food that has been cooked on a barbecue: barbecued food • She invited us over for some beer and *barbecue*. • He makes a *barbecue sauce* [=a spicy sauce that is usually eaten with barbecued food that tastes great with chicken].

2 **barbecue verb** -cues; -cued; -cu-ing: to cook (food) on a barbecue: to broil or roast (meat, fish, etc.) over hot coals or an open fire [+ obj] We *barbecued* chicken and ribs. [no obj] We *barbecue* often during the summer.

— **barbecued** **adj** • They served *barbecued* chicken/shrimp/pork at the cookout.

barbed /'bɑ:bəd/ **adj**

1: having a sharp point that sticks out and backward from a larger point: having a barb • a *barbed* fishhook

2: expressing criticism in an unkind and often clever way • The candidates exchanged *barbed* comments during the debate.

barbed wire **noun** [non-count]

: wire that has sharp points and that is often used for fences • a fence made of *barbed wire* = a *barbed-wire* fence — called also (US) *barbwire*

bar-bell /'bɑ:bəl/ **noun**, **pl** **-bells** [count]

: a metal bar with weights at each end that is used for exercise and in weight lifting — see picture at GYM

bar-ber /'bɑ:bə/ **noun**, **pl** **-bers** [count]: a person whose job is to cut men's hair • He goes to a *barber* downtown. • I went to the *barber's* [=chiefly US] *barbershop* to get a haircut.

bar-ber-shop /'bɑ:bəʃɑ:p/ **noun**, **pl** **-shops** [count] chiefly US: a place where a barber works

barbershop quartet **noun**, **pl** ~ **-tets** [count]: a group of four male singers who sing in an old-fashioned style without instruments

bar-bie /'bɑ:bi/ **noun**, **pl** **-bies** [count] chiefly Brit + Australia, informal: **BARBECUE**

bar-bit-u-rate /bə'brɪtʃərət/ **noun**, **pl** **-rates** [count] medical: any of various drugs that are used to calm people or make them sleep

barb-wire /'bɑ:b'wajə/ **noun** [noncount] US: **BARBED WIRE** • a *barbwire* fence

bar chart **noun**, **pl** ~ **charts** [count]: **BAR GRAPH**

bar code **noun**, **pl** ~ **codes** [count]

: a group of thick and thin lines that is placed on a product so that a computer can get the price of the product and other information about it

bar code

bard /'bɑ:d/ **noun**, **pl** **bards** [count]

: old-fashioned + literary: **POET** ♦ The poet and playwright William Shakespeare is sometimes called *the Bard* or *the Bard of Avon*. • As *the Bard* says, "All the world's a stage."

1 **bare** /'beə/ **adj** **bar-er**; **bar-est**

1 a: not having a covering • There was a rug in the first room of the house, but the other floors were *bare*. • The walls were *bare*. • Do not let the *bare* wires touch. — sometimes used figuratively • He *laid bare* his soul. = He *laid* his soul *bare*. [=he revealed his most private thoughts and feelings] • The book is an attempt to *lay bare* [=reveal, uncover] the secrets of this very powerful political family. **b**: not covered by clothing, shoes, a hat, etc. • He covered her arms with his coat. • Her feet were *bare*. = She had *bare* feet [=she wasn't wearing shoes or socks on her feet] • He had a glove on his left hand, but his right hand was *bare*. • His hand is *bare*. [=he does not have a hat on] — see also with *bare hands* at **HAND** **c**: not covered by leaves, grass, trees, or plants • She likes the *bare* [=naked] branches of trees in the winter. • The ground was *bare* where the statue had stood for years. • The mountainside was *laid bare* by loggers. [=the trees on the mountainside were cut down by loggers]

2 a: not containing anything: **EMPTY** • The cupboard was *bare*. • There was only one *bare* shelf. **b**: having little or no furniture • a *bare* room • Her office was pretty *bare*, have



barbed wire



bar code

one desk and one chair. • This is

used before a noun: not having anything including only what is most basic or essential about what has been needed for the hike. • They have the bare essentials (of life): food, water, and only does the bare minimum of work possible] • a *bare* majority] • She added the *bare*

-ness **noun** [noncount] • the *bareness*

verb bares; *bared*; *bar-ing* [+ obj] • The dog growled and *bared* [=exposed] its teeth. • He *bared* his soul. • She *bared* her fears to the whole story in the interview. • He told me his most private thoughts.

Do not confuse *bare* with *bear*.

bare-back /'beə'bæk/ **adv**: without a back of a horse • We rode *bareback*.

— **bareback** **adj** • He likes *bareback* riding.

bare bones **noun**

: the most basic or important of something • The company reduced its staff to *bare bones*. [=the company's staff only included the absolutely needed] — often + *of* • What are the *bare bones* of the story?

bare-bones **adj** [more ~; most ~]: including only the most basic or needed • a *bare-bones* Web site • The hotel rooms are *bare-faced* /'beə'feɪst/ **adj**, always used before a noun: completely obvious

— **bare-faced** **liar**

bare-foot /'beə'fʊt/ or **bare-foot-ed** **adj**: without shoes: with the feet *bare* • We were *barefoot* or *barefooted* **adj** • *barefoot*

bare-foot or **barefooted** **adj** • *barefoot*

bare-hand-ed /'beə'hændəd/ **adv**: without using a tool, weapon, or the ball *bare-handed*

— **bare-handed** **adj** • She made a *bare-handed* catch. • He left the house *bareheaded*.

— **bareheaded** **adj** • a *bareheaded* man

bare-knuck-le /'beə'nʌkl/ **also** **bare-knuck-les** /'beə'nʌklz/ **noun**: without boxing gloves

— **bare-knuckled** **adj** • a *bare-knuckled* punch • a *bare-knuckled* approach to doing things

— **bare-knuckled** **adj** • a *bare-knuckled* approach to doing things

barely /'beəli/ **adv**

: hardly or scarcely — used to say that something is almost not possible or almost did not happen • I *barely* saw you with your hair cut short. • His voice was *barely* audible above the noise. • The boat was *barely* visible off the shore. • I *barely* have enough money to eat. • I *barely* made his flight. [=he almost was too late]

— **barely** **adv** • I *barely* made his flight. [=he almost was too late]

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