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The New Oxford American Dictionary

SECOND EDITION

FIRST EDITION

Elizabeth J. Jewell
Frank Abate

SECOND EDITION

Erin McKean

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bottom feeder ▶ *n.* an aquatic creature that feeds at the bottom of a body of water. ■ *figurative* someone who profits from things cast off or left over by others.

bottom fermentation ▶ *n.* a process in the brewing of certain beers in which the yeast falls to the bottom during fermentation.

bottom fish ▶ *n.* a species of fish, such as flounder, that is a bottom feeder.

▶ *v.* fish for species that are bottom fish. ■ make profits from investments that are of low value or out of favor.

bottom-land /'bätəm,land/ ▶ *n.* low-lying land, typically by a river and subject to overflow during floods.

bottom-less /'bätəmls/ ▶ *adj.* 1 without a bottom. ■ very deep: the cold dark sea in whose bottomless depths monsters swim. ■ *figurative* inexhaustible: I don't have a bottomless pit of money | his appetite becomes bottomless. 2 naked, esp. below the waist.

bottom line ▶ *n.* *informal* the final total of an account, balance sheet, or other financial document: *figurative* the determination of Japanese companies to ignore the bottom line. ■ the ultimate criterion: the bottom line is, does it work? ■ the underlying or ultimate outcome: the bottom line is I'm still married to Denny.

bottom round ▶ *n.* a steak or other cut from the outer part of a round of beef.

bottom-ry /'bätəmrē/ ▶ *n.* dated a system of merchant insurance in which a ship is used as security against a loan to finance a voyage, the lender losing the investment if the ship sinks. ▶late 16th cent.: from **bottom** (in the sense 'ship') + *-ry*, influenced by Dutch *botmerij*.

bottom-up ▶ *adj.* proceeding from the bottom of a hierarchy upward or from the beginning of a process forward.

bot-u-lin /'bächəlin/ ▶ *n.* the bacterial toxin involved in botulism.

bot-u-li-num /'bächə'linəm/ ▶ *n.* a rod-shaped bacterium that produces botulin. • *Clostridium botulinum*.

bot-u-li-num tox-in /'bächə'linəm/ (also **bot-u-li-nus tox-in** /'līnəs/) ▶ *n.* another term for **BOTULIN**.

bot-u-lism /'bächə'lizəm/ ▶ *n.* food poisoning caused by a bacterium (botulism) growing on improperly sterilized canned meats and other preserved foods. ▶late 19th cent.: from German *Botulismus*, originally 'sausage poisoning,' from Latin *botulus* 'sausage.'

bou-bou /'böö'böö/ ▶ *n.* 1 (also **boubou shrike**) an African bush shrike with the upper parts mainly blackish in color. It is noted for the duet of bell-like calls produced by the male and female together. • Genus *Laniarius*, family Laniidae: several species, in particular the **tropical boubou** (*L. aethiopicus*) and the **southern boubou** (*L. ferrugineus*). 2 a long, colorful, loose-fitting garment worn by both sexes in parts of Africa. ▶French, from Malinke *bubu*.

bou-chée /'böö'shā/ ▶ *n.* a small pastry with a sweet or savory filling.

Bou-cher /'böö'shā/, François (1703–70), French painter and decorative artist. One of the foremost artists of the rococo style in France, his works include *The Rising of the Sun* (1753) and *Summer Pastoral* (1749).

bou-clé /'böö'klā/ ▶ *n.* [often as *adj.*] yarn with a looped or curled ply, or fabric woven from this yarn: a *bouclé* sweater. ▶late 19th cent.: French, literally 'buckled, curled.'

Bou-dic-ca /'böö'dikə/ (died AD 62), a queen of the Britons; ruler of the Iceni tribe in eastern England; also known as **Boadicea**. She led her forces in revolt against the Romans and sacked Colchester, St. Albans, and London before being defeated by the Roman governor, Suetonius Paulinus.

bou-din /'böö'dän; -'dän/ ▶ *n.* a French type of blood sausage. ■ a spicy sausage used esp. in Louisiana cuisine. ▶early 19th cent.: French, literally 'blood sausage.'

bou-doir /'böö'dwār/ ▶ *n.* chiefly historical or humorous a woman's bedroom or private room. ▶late 18th cent.: French, literally 'sukling place.'

bouffant /'böö'tānt/ ▶ *adj.* [attrib.] (of a person's hair) styled so as to puff out in a rounded shape: a blonde lady with bouffant hair.

▶ *n.* a bouffant hairstyle. ▶early 19th cent.: from French, literally 'swelling,' present participle of *bouffer*.

Bou-gain-ville /'böögən,vil; -bō-/ a volcanic island in the South Pacific Ocean, the largest of the Solomon Islands. ▶named after Louis de Bougainville (see **BOUGAINVILLE**), who visited it in 1768.

Bou-gain-ville /'böögən'vél/, Louis Antoine de (1729–1811), French explorer. He led the first French circumnavigation of the globe 1766–69, visiting many of the islands of the South Pacific and compiling an invaluable scientific record of his findings.

bou-gain-vil-lae-a /'böögən'vilyə; -vëə; -bō-/ (also **bou-gain-vil-lae-a**) ▶ *n.* an ornamental climbing plant that is widely cultivated in the tropics. The insignificant flowers are surrounded by brightly colored papery bracts that persist on the plant for a long time. • Genus *Bougainvillea*, family Nyctaginaceae. ▶named after Louis Antoine de Bougainville (see **BOUGAINVILLE**).

bough /bou/ ▶ *n.* a main branch of a tree: apple boughs laden with blossom. ▶Old English *bōg*, *bōh* 'bough or shoulder,' of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *boeg* 'shoulders or ship's bow,' German *Bug* 'ship's bow' and 'horse's hock or shoulder,' also to **bow**.

bought /bōt/ ▶ past and past participle of **buy**.

bought-en /'bōtn/ ▶ *adj.* *dialect* bought rather than homemade: wooden boxes full of boughten cookies | her first store-boughten doll. ▶late 18th cent.: *dialect* variant of **BOUGHT**.

bou-gle /'böög; -zhē/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* -gies) *Medicine* a thin, flexible surgical instrument for exploring or dilating a passage of the body. ▶mid 18th cent.: from French, literally 'wax candle,' from Arabic *Bijāya*, the name of an Algerian town that traded in wax.

bouil-la-baisse /'bööl(lyə'bās; -böö(lyə'bās) ▶ *n.* a rich, spicy stew or soup made with various kinds of fish, originally from Provence. ▶French, from modern Provençal *bouilbaisso* 'boil down.'

bouil-lon /'bööllyən; -yän/ ▶ *n.* a broth made by stewing meat, fish, or vegetables in water. ▶mid 17th cent.: French, literally 'liquid in which something has boiled.'

bouil-lon cube ▶ *n.* a cube of concentrated stock, used for making bouillon.

Boul-der /'böldər/ a city in north central Colorado, northwest of Denver, home to the University of Colorado; pop. 94,673.

boul-der /'böldər/ (also **bowl-der**) ▶ *n.* a large rock, typically one that has been worn smooth by erosion. ▶late Middle English: shortened from earlier *boulderstone*, of Scandinavian origin. —**boul-der-y** *adj.*

boul-der clay ▶ *Brit.* *n.* another term for **TILL**.

boul-der-ing /'böldərlng/ ▶ *n.* *Mountaineering* climbing on large boulders, either for practice or as a sport in its own right.

boule /'bööl/ (also **boules** pronunc. same) ▶ *n.* 1 a French lawn game, played on rough ground with metal balls. 2 a crystal, as of sapphire, synthetically manufactured by fusion and used as a gemstone. 3 a rounded loaf of bread. ▶early 20th cent. (originally denoting a form of roulette): French, literally 'bowl.'

boule /'bööl'lä; 'böölē/ ▶ *n.* a legislative body of ancient or modern Greece. ▶from Greek *boulē* 'senate.'

boul-e-ward /'böölē,värd/ (abbr.: **blvd.**) ▶ *n.* a wide street in a town or city, typically one lined with trees: [in names] *Sunset Boulevard*. ■ another term for **BOULEVARD STRIP**. ▶mid 18th cent.: French, literally 'a rampart' (later 'a promenade on the site of one'), from German *Bollwerk* (see **BULWARK**).

boul-e-var-dier /'böölēvār'di(ə)r/ ▶ *n.* a wealthy, fashionable socialite. ▶late 19th cent.: from French, originally in the sense 'person who frequents boulevards.'

boul-e-ward strip ▶ *n.* a grassy strip between a road and a sidewalk.

bou-le-ver-se-ment /'böölēversə'män/ ▶ *n.* an inversion, esp. a violent one; an upset or upheaval. ▶from French *bouleverser* 'overturn'.

Bou-lez /'bööl'lez/, Pierre (1925–), French composer and conductor. He was principal conductor with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra 1971–78.

boulle /'bööl/ ▶ *n.* *Brit.* variant spelling of **BUHL**.

bounce /bəuns/ ▶ *v.* [*intrans.*] (of an object, esp. a ball) move quickly away from a surface after hitting it: rebound: the ball bounced off the rim | [*trans.*] he was bouncing the ball against the wall. ■ [often with *adv.* or *prep.* phrase showing direction] rebound repeatedly: the ball bounced away, and he chased it | the puck bounced into the middle of the ice. ■ (of light, sound, or an electronic signal) come into contact with an object or surface and be reflected: short sound waves bounce off even small objects. ■ (of a thing) move up and down while remaining essentially in the same position: the gangplank bounced under his confident step. ■ (of a person) jump repeatedly up and down, typically on something springy: bouncing up and down on the

mattress. ■ [*trans.*] cause (a child) to move lightly up and down on one's knee as a game: I remember how you used to bounce me on your knee. ■ [often with *adv.* or *prep.* phrase showing direction] move in an energetic or happy manner: Linda bounced in through the open front door. ■ [often with *adv.* or *prep.* phrase showing direction] (of a vehicle) move jerkily along a bumpy surface: the car bounced down the narrow track.

■ (**bounce back**) *figurative* recover well after a setback: admired for his ability to bounce back from injury. ■ *Baseball* hit a ball that bounces before reaching a fielder: bouncing out with the bases loaded | [*trans.*] bounced a grounder to third. ■ *informal* (of a check) be returned by a bank when there are insufficient funds to meet it: my rent check bounced. ■ [*trans.*] *informal* write (a check) on insufficient funds: I've never bounced a check. ■ [*trans.*] *informal* dismiss (someone) from a job: those who put in a dismal performance will be bounced from the tour. ■ [*trans.*] *informal* eject (a troublemaker) forcibly from a nightclub or similar establishment.

▶ *n.* a rebound of a ball or other object: a bad bounce caused the ball to get away from the second baseman. ■ an act of jumping or an instance of being moved up and down: every bounce of the truck brought them into fresh contact | a bounce on your knee or a cuddle and pat on the back. ■ the power of rebounding: a large flange with lots of bounce. ■ a sudden rise in the level of something: economists agree that there could be a bounce in prices next year. ■ exuberant self-confidence: the bounce was now back in Jenny's step. ■ health and body in the hair: use conditioner to help hair regain its bounce. ▶Middle English *bunsen* 'beat, thump.'

▶ **PHRASES** □ bounce an idea off someone *informal* share an idea with another person in order to get feedback on it. □ be bouncing off the walls *informal* be full of nervous excitement or agitation.

bounce flash ▶ *n.* a device for giving reflected photographic flashlight. ■ flashlight reflected in this way.

bouncer /'bəunsər/ ▶ *n.* 1 a person employed by a nightclub or similar establishment to prevent troublemakers from entering or to eject them from the premises. 2 *Baseball* a batted ball that bounces before being fielded.

bouncing /'bəunsɪŋ/ ▶ *adj.* (of a ball) rebounding up and down: an awkwardly bouncing ball. ■ (of a baby) vigorous and healthy: Lisa gave birth to a bouncing baby boy. ■ lively and confident: by the next day she was her usual bouncing, energetic self. ■ *informal* (of a check) returned by a bank because there are insufficient funds in an account to meet it: attempts to tighten up the law on bouncing checks.

bouncing Bet ▶ *n.* another term for **SOAPWORT**.

bouncy /'bəunsē/ ▶ *adj.* (**bounc-ier**, **bounc-i-est**) bouncing well: a bouncy ball. ■ resilient; springy: that bouncy artificial grass. ■ (of a person) confident and lively: she was still the girl he remembered, bouncy and full of life. ■ (of music) having a jaunty rhythm: the bouncy cheerfulness of polka. ■ (of the hair) in good condition: having bounce: hair with shiny, bouncy curls. —**bounc-ily** /-sēlē/ *adv.* —**bounc-i-ness** *n.*

bound /'baund/ ▶ *v.* [*intrans.*] walk or run with leaping strides: Louis came bounding down the stairs | the dog bounded up to him. ■ (of an object, typically a round one) rebound from a surface: bullets bounded off the veranda.

▶ *n.* a leaping movement upward: I went up the steps in two effortless bounds. ▶early 16th cent. (as a noun): from French *bond* (noun), *bondir* (verb) 'rebound,' later 'rebound,' from late Latin *bombitare*, from Latin *bombus* 'humming.'

bound ▶ *n.* (often **bounds**) a territorial limit; a boundary: the ancient bounds of the forest. ■ a limitation or restriction on feeling or action: it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the issue could arise again | enthusiasm to join the union knew no bounds. ■ technical a limiting value.

▶ *v.* [*trans.*] (usu. **be bounded**) form the boundary of; enclose: the ground was bounded by a main road on one side and a meadow on the other. ■ place within certain limits; restrict: freedom of action is bounded by law. ▶Middle English (in the senses 'landmark' and 'borderland'): from Old French *borne*, from medieval Latin *badina*, earlier *butina*, of unknown ultimate origin.

▶ **PHRASES** □ in bounds *Sports* inside the regular

Pronunciation Key ə ago; ər over; 'ə or 'e up; 'ər or 'er fur; a hat; ā rate; ā car; CH chew; e let; ē see; e(ə) r air; i fit; i by; i(ə) ear; Nə sing; ō go; ō for; ōi boy; ōō good; ōō goo; ou out; SH she; TH thin; TH then; (h)w why; ZH vision

playing area. **□ out of bounds** (of a place) outside the limits of where one is permitted to be: his kitchen was out of bounds to me at mealtimes. **■ Sports** outside the regular playing area: he hit his third shot out of bounds at the 17th. **■ figurative** beyond what is acceptable: Paul felt that this conversation was getting out of bounds.

bound ³ *adj.* heading toward somewhere: trains bound for Chicago | [in combination] the three moon-bound astronauts. **■ figurative** destined or likely to have a specified experience: they were bound for disaster. **▷ Middle English** *boun* (in the sense 'ready, dressed'), from Old Norse *búinn*, past participle of *búa* 'get ready'; the final -d is euphonic, or influenced by **BOUND**⁴.

bound ⁴ *past and past participle of BIND*.

adj. 1 [in combination] restricted or confined to a specified place: his job kept him city-bound. **■ prevented from operating normally by the specified conditions:** blizzard-bound Boston. 2 [with infinitive] certain to do or have something: there is bound to be a change of plan. **■ obliged by law, circumstances, or duty to do something:** I'm bound to do what I can to help Sam | I'm bound to say that I'm not sure. 3 [in combination] (of a book) having a specified binding: fine leather-bound books. 4 *Linguistics* (of a morpheme) unable to occur alone, e.g., *dis-* in *dismount*. 5 *constipated*.

PHRASES **□ bound up** in focusing on, to the exclusion of all else: she was too bound up in her own misery to care that other people were hurt. **□ bound up with** (or *in*) closely connected with or related to: democracy is bound up with a measure of economic and social equality. **bound-ary** ¹ *'bound(ə)rē* *n.* (pl. *-ries*) a line that marks the limits of an area; a dividing line: the eastern boundary of the wilderness | the boundary between the U.S. and Canada | [as *adj.*] a boundary wall. **■ (often boundaries) figurative** a limit of a subject or sphere of activity: a community without class or political boundaries. **▷ early 17th cent.:** variant of *dialect boundary*, from **BOUND**² + *-ER*¹, perhaps on the pattern of *limitary*.

bound-ary condition ² *n.* *Mathematics* a condition that is required to be satisfied at all or part of the boundary of a region in which a set of differential equations is to be solved.

bound-ary layer ³ *n.* a layer of more or less stationary fluid (such as water or air) immediately surrounding an immersed object in relative motion with the fluid.

Bound-ary Waters a region in northeast Minnesota, along the Ontario border, known as a canoeing wilderness.

bound-en ¹ *'boundən* *archaic past participle of BIND*. **PHRASE** **□ one's bounden duty** a responsibility regarded as obligatory: the Pastor believed that it was his bounden duty to keep them on the right path.

bound-er ¹ *'boundər* *n.* *informal, dated, chiefly Brit.* a dishonorable man: he is nothing but a fortune-seeking bounder.

bound form ² *n.* a morpheme that occurs only as an element of a compound word and cannot stand on its own, such as *-ing* or *-er*.

bound-less ¹ *'boundlɪs* *adj.* unlimited; immense: enthusiasts who devote boundless energy to their hobby. **—bound-less-ly** *adv.* [as *submodifier*] the land was boundlessly fertile. **—bound-less-ness** *n.*

bound-te-ous ¹ *'bounteəs* *adj.* *archaic* generously given or giving: bountiful: the earth yields a bounteous harvest. **▷ late Middle English:** from Old French *bontif*, *-ive* 'benevolent' (from *bonte* 'bounty'), on the pattern of *plenteous*. **—boun-te-ous-ly** *adv.* **—boun-te-ous-ness** *n.*

Boun-ti-ful ¹ *'bountifəl* *a city* in northern Utah, north of Salt Lake City; pop. 41,301.

boun-ti-ful ¹ *'bountifəl* *adj.* large in quantity; abundant: the ocean provided a bountiful supply of fresh food. **■ giving generously:** he was exceedingly bountiful to persons in distress. **▷ early 16th cent.:** from **BOUNTY** + *-FUL*. **—boun-ti-ful-ly** *adv.*

Boun-ty ¹ *'bounti* *a ship* of the British navy on which in 1789 part of the crew, led by Fletcher Christian, mutinied against their commander, William Bligh, and set him adrift in an open boat with eighteen crewmen.

boun-ty ¹ *'bounti* *n.* (pl. *-ties*) 1 generosity; liberality: figurative for millennia the people along the Nile have depended entirely on its bounty. **■ abundance; plenty:** we ask that growers share their bounty with others. 2 a monetary gift or reward, typically given by a government, in particular: **■ a sum paid for killing or capturing a person or animal:** there was an increased bounty on his head. **■ historical** a sum paid to encourage trade: bounties were paid to colonial producers of

indigo dye. **■ a sum paid to army or navy recruits upon enlistment.** **■ poetic/literary** something given or occurring in generous amounts: the bounties of nature. **▷ Middle English** (denoting goodness or generosity): from Old French *bonte* 'goodness,' from Latin *bonitas*, from *bonus* 'good.' The sense 'monetary reward' dates from the early 18th cent.

boun-ty hunter ² *n.* one who pursues a criminal or seeks an achievement for the sake of the reward.

bou-quet ¹ *'bōkə* *n.* 1 an attractively arranged bunch of flowers, esp. one presented as a gift or carried at a ceremony. **■ figurative** an expression of approval; a compliment: we will happily publish the bouquets. 2 a characteristic scent, esp. that of a wine or perfume: the aperitif has a faint bouquet of almonds | champagnes have a delicacy of bouquet. See note at **SMELL**. **▷ early 18th cent.:** from French (earlier 'clump of trees'), from a dialect variant of Old French *bos* 'wood.' Sense 2 dates from the mid 19th cent.

bou-quet gar-ni ¹ *'bōkə gār-nē*; *bō-* *n.* (pl. *bou-quets gar-nis* *pronunc.* same) a bunch of herbs, typically encased in a cheesecloth bag, used for flavoring a stew or soup. **▷ mid 19th cent.:** French, literally 'gar-nished bouquet.'

Bour-bon ¹ *'bōrbən* the surname of a branch of the royal family of France. The Bourbons ruled France from 1589, when Henry IV succeeded to the throne, until the monarchy was overthrown in 1848, and reached the peak of their power under Louis XIV in the late 17th century. Members of this family have also been kings of Spain (1700–1931 and since 1975).

Bour-bon ² *n.* 1 a reactionary. 2 (also **Bourbon rose**) a rose of a variety that flowers over a long period and has a rich scent. It arose as a natural hybrid on the island of Réunion (formerly Île de Bourbon) and was introduced into Europe in the early 19th century. **▷ Rosa × borboriana**, a hybrid of *Rosa chinensis* and *R. damascena*, family Rosaceae. **▷ mid 19th cent. (sense 1, originally U.S.):** from the name of the **BOURBON**¹ family. Sense 2 dates from the 1930s.

bour-bon ¹ *'bərbən* *n.* a straight whiskey distilled from a mash having at least 51 percent corn in addition to malt and rye. **▷ mid 19th cent.:** named after **Bourbon County**, Kentucky, where it was first made.

Bour-bon County a county in north central Kentucky, in the Bluegrass region, birthplace of the American whiskey type.

Bour-bon-nais ¹ *'bōrbə'nā* *a former duchy and province* in central France; chief town, Moulins.

bour-don ¹ *'bōrdən* *n.* 1 *Music* a low-pitched stop in an organ or harmonium, typically a sixteen-foot stopped diapason. 2 the drone pipe of a bagpipe. **▷ Middle English** (in the sense 'drone of a bagpipe'): from Old French, 'drone,' of imitative origin.

bourg ¹ *'bōrg* *n.* *historical* a town or village under the shadow of a castle. **■ a French market town.** **▷ French, from late Latin** *burgus* 'castle' (in medieval Latin 'fortified town'), ultimately of Germanic origin and related to **BOROUGH**.

bour-geois ¹ *'bōrgwāz*; *'bōrgz-hwāz* *adj.* of or characteristic of the middle class, typically with reference to its perceived materialistic values or conventional attitudes: a rich, bored, bourgeois family | these views will shock the bourgeois critics. **■ (in Marxist contexts)** upholding the interests of capitalism; not communist: bourgeois society took for granted the sanctity of property. **▷ n.** (pl. same) a bourgeois person: a self-confessed and proud bourgeois. **▷ mid 16th cent.:** from French **BOURG**. Compare with **BURGESS**.

bour-geoise ¹ *'bōrgzhwāz*; *'bōrgzhwāz* *adj.* of or characteristic of female members of the bourgeoisie. **▷ n.** a female member of the bourgeoisie. **▷ late 18th cent.:** French, feminine of *bourgeois* 'citizen' (see **BOURGEOIS**).

bour-geoi-sie ¹ *'bōrgzhwāzē* *n.* (usu. the bourgeoisie) the middle class, typically with reference to its perceived materialistic values or conventional attitudes. **■ (in Marxist contexts)** the capitalist class who own most of society's wealth and means of production. **▷ early 18th cent.:** French, from **BOURGEOIS**.

Bour-gogne ¹ *'bōrggōn(yə)* French name for **BURGUNDY**.

Bour-gui-ba ¹ *'bōrggēbə*, Habib ibn Ali (1903–2000), Tunisian nationalist and statesman. He was the first president of independent Tunisia 1957–87.

Bourke-White ¹ *'bɔrk (h)wīt*, Margaret (1906–71), U.S. photojournalist. During World War II, she was the first female photographer with the U.S. armed forces. At the end of the war, she accompanied the

Allied forces when they entered the Nazi concentration camps. Later assignments included the Korean War (1950–53) and work in India and South Africa. **bour-n** ¹ *'bɔrn*; *bōrn* (also **bourne**) *n.* *dialect* a small stream, esp. one that flows intermittently or seasonally. **▷ Middle English:** southern English variant of **BURN**².

bour-n (also **bourne**) ² *n.* *poetic/literary* 1 a goal; a destination. 2 a limit; a boundary. **▷ early 16th cent. (denoting a boundary of a field):** from French *borne*, from Old French *borne* (see **BOUND**²).

Bourne-mouth ¹ *'bōrməʊθ*; *'bōrn-/* a resort on the southern coast of England; pop. 154,400.

bour-rée ¹ *'bōr-rā* *n.* a lively French dance like a gavotte. **■ Ballet** a series of very fast little steps, with the feet close together, typically performed on pointe and giving the impression that the dancer is gliding over the floor.

v. [intrans.] perform a bourrée. **▷ late 17th cent.:** French, literally 'faggot of twigs' (the dance being performed around a fire made with such twigs).

bourse ¹ *'bɔrs* *n.* a stock market in a non-English-speaking country, esp. France. **■ (Bourse)** the Paris stock exchange. **▷ mid 16th cent. (as** *burse***), the usual form until the mid 19th cent.:** from French, literally 'purse,' via medieval Latin from Greek *bursa* 'leather.'

Bour-sin ¹ *'bōrsən* *n.* *trademark* a kind of soft cheese from France. **▷ French.**

bou-stro-phe-don ¹ *'bōstre'fɛdn* *adj. & adv.* (of written words) from right to left and from left to right in alternate lines. **▷ early 17th cent.:** from Greek, literally 'as an ox turns in plowing,' from *bous* 'ox' + *-strophos* 'turning.'

bout ¹ *'baut* *n.* 1 a short period of intense activity of a specified kind: occasional bouts of strenuous exercise | a drinking bout. **■ an attack of illness or strong emotion of a specified kind:** a severe bout of flu. **■ a wrestling or boxing match.** 2 a curve in the side of a violin, guitar, or other musical instrument. **▷ mid 16th cent. (denoting a curve or circuit, hence later a "turn" of activity):** from dialect *bought* 'bend, loop'; probably of Low German origin.

bout-ade ¹ *'bōtād* *n.* *formal* a sudden outburst or outbreak. **▷ early 17th cent.:** French, from *bouter* 'to thrust.'

bou-tique ¹ *'bōtēk* *n.* 1 a small store selling fashionable clothes or accessories. 2 a business that serves a sophisticated or specialized clientele: a small investment boutique | [as *adj.*] a boutique film. **▷ mid 18th cent.:** French, literally 'small shop,' via Latin from Greek *apothēkē* 'storehouse.' Compare with **BODEGA**. **—bou-tique-y** *adj.*

bou-tique brew-ery ² *n.* another term for **MICRO-BREWERY**.

bou-tique ho-tel ² *n.* a small stylish hotel, typically one situated in a fashionable urban location.

bou-ton ¹ *'bōtən* *n.* *Anatomy* an enlarged part of a nerve fiber or cell, esp. an axon, where it forms a synapse with another nerve. **▷ mid 20th cent.:** from French, literally 'button.'

bou-ton-nière ¹ *'bōtən'niə* *n.* a spray of flowers worn in a buttonhole. **▷ late 19th cent.:** French, 'buttonhole,' from *bouton* 'button.'

Bou-tros-Gha-li, Boutros (1922–), Egyptian diplomat and politician; secretary-general of the UN 1992–97.

bou-vier ¹ *'bōv-yā* *n.* a large, powerful dog of a rough-coated breed originating in Belgium. **▷ French** 'cowherd.'

bou-zou-ki ¹ *'bōzōkē* *n.* (pl. *-kis* or *-kia* *-kyā*) a long-necked Greek instrument similar to the mandolin. **▷ 1950s:** from modern Greek *mpouzouki*, possibly related to Turkish *bozuk* 'spoiled' (with reference to roughly made instruments).

bo-vid ¹ *'bōvid* *n.* *Zoology* a mammal of the cattle family (Bovidae). **▷ late 19th cent.:** from modern Latin *Bovidae*, from *bos*, *bov-* 'ox.'

bo-vine ¹ *'bōvin*; *-vèn* *adj.* of, relating to, or affecting cattle: bovine tuberculosis | bovine tissue. **■ (of a person)** slow-moving and dull-witted: amiable bovine faces.

n. an animal of the cattle group, which also includes buffaloes and bisons. **▷ early 19th cent.:** from late Latin *bovinus*, from Latin *bos*, *bov-* 'ox.' **—bo-vine-ly** *adv.*

bo-vine growth hor-mone (abbr.: **BGH**) ² *n.* a natural hormone in cattle that helps regulate growth and milk production and that may be produced artificially and given to dairy cattle to increase the yield of milk. Also called **BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN**.

bo-vine so-ma-to-tro-pin ² *'sə,mə'trōpin* (abbr.: **BST**) ² *n.* another term for **BOVINE GROWTH HORMONE**.