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dictionary

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bail ¹ (bāl)

Share:

n.

1. Security, usually a sum of money, exchanged for the release of an arrested person as a guarantee of that person's appearance for trial.
2. Release from imprisonment provided by the payment of such money.
3. A person who provides this security.

tr.v. **bailed, bail·ing, bails**

1. To secure the release of by providing security.
2. To release (a person) for whom security has been paid.
3. *Informal* To extricate from a difficult situation: *always bailing you out of trouble.*

Idioms:

jump/skip bail

To fail to appear in court and so forfeit one's bail.

make bail

To secure enough money or property to pay the amount of one's bail.

[Middle English, custody, from Old French, from *baillier*, to take charge of, from Latin *bāiulāre*, to carry a load, from *bāiulus*, carrier of a burden.]

bail *er n.*

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bail ² (bāl)

Share:

v. **bailed, bail·ing, bails**

v.tr.

1. To remove (water) from a boat by repeatedly filling a container and emptying it over the side.
2. To empty (a boat) of water by bailing.

v.intr.

1. To empty a boat of water by bailing.
2. To parachute from an aircraft; eject. Often used with *out*: *bailed out of the damaged airplane at the last possible moment.*
3. To abandon a project or enterprise. Often used with *out*: *The investors bailed out when it looked as though the company was going to be unprofitable.*

n.

A container used for emptying water from a boat.

[From Middle English *baille*, bucket, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin **bāiula*, water container, from Latin *bāiulāre*, to carry a load.]

bail *er n.*

bail ³  (bāl)

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n.

1. The arched hooplike handle of a container, such as a pail.
2. An arch or hoop, such as one of those used to support the top of a covered wagon.
3. A hinged bar on a typewriter that holds the paper against the platen.
4. The pivoting U-shaped part of a fishing reel that guides the line onto the spool during rewinding.
5. A small loop, usually of metal, attached to a pendant to enable it to be strung on a necklace or bracelet.

[Middle English *beil*, perhaps from Old English **begel* of Scandinavian origin; see **bheug-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]



(click for a larger image)

bail³
covered wagon

bail ⁴  (bāl)

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n.

1. *Chiefly British* A pole or bar used to confine or separate animals.
2. *Sports* One of the two crossbars that form the top of a wicket used in the game of cricket.

[Old French dialectal, probably from Latin *baculum*, stick; see [BACILLUS](#).]

Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

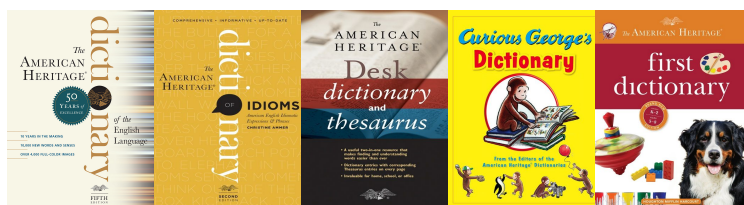
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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