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best  (běst)

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adj. Superlative of [good](#).

1. Surpassing all others in excellence, achievement, or quality; most excellent: *the best performer; the best grade of ore.*
2. Most satisfactory, suitable, or useful; most desirable: *the best solution; the best time for planting.*
3. Greatest; most: *He spoke for the best part of an hour.*
4. Most highly skilled: *the best doctor in town.*

adv. Superlative of **well**².

1. In a most excellent way; most creditably or advantageously.
2. To the greatest degree or extent; most: *"He was certainly the best hated man in the ship" (W. Somerset Maugham).*

1. One that surpasses all others.
2. The best part, moment, or value: *The best is still to come. Let's get the best out of life.*
3. The optimum condition or quality: *look your best. She was at her best in the freestyle competition.*
4. One's nicest or most formal clothing.
5. The supreme effort one can make: *doing our best.*
6. One's warmest wishes or regards: *Give them my best.*

tr.v. **best·ed, best·ing, bests**

To get the better of; beat: *"I'm a rough customer, I expect, but I know when I'm bested" (Nathanael West).*

Idioms:

at best

1. Interpreted most favorably; at the most: *no more than 40 people at best in attendance.*
2. Under the most favorable conditions: *has a top speed of 20 miles per hour at best.*

for the best

With an ultimately positive or preferable result.

get/have the best of

To outdo or outwit; defeat: *My opponent got the best of me in the debate.*

make the best of

To accept (a bad situation) in as good a light as possible.

[Middle English, from Old English *betst*; see **bhad-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Usage Note: According to a traditional rule of grammar, *better*, not *best*, should be used in comparisons between two things: *Which house of Congress has the better attendance record?* This rule is often ignored in practice, but it still has many devoted adherents. In certain fixed expressions, however, *best* is used idiomatically for comparisons between two: *Put your best foot forward. May the best team win!* See Usage Notes at [have](#), [rather](#).

Best 🎧 (běst), Charles Herbert 1899-1978.

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American-born Canadian physiologist noted for his work with Frederick Banting on the purification of insulin and its application to the treatment of diabetes.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

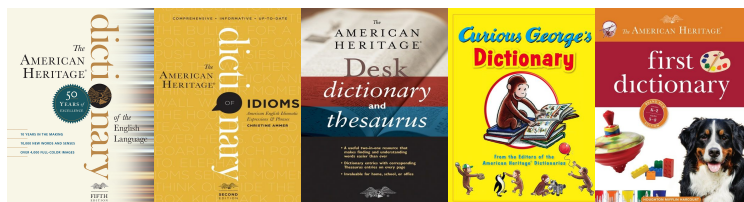
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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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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