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bar·ley  (bär lē)

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n.

1. A grass in the genus *Hordeum* native to temperate regions, having flowers in terminal, often long-awned spikes and widely cultivated for its grain.
2. The grain of *H. vulgare* or its varieties, used in malt production and as food for livestock and humans.

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

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