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bull¹  (b l)

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n.

1.

a. An adult male bovine mammal.

b. The uncastrated adult male of domestic cattle.

c. The adult male of certain other large animals, such as alligators, elephants, moose, or whales.

2. An exceptionally large, strong, and aggressive person.

3.

a. An optimist, especially regarding business conditions.

b. A person who buys commodities or securities in anticipation of a rise in prices or who tries by speculative purchases to effect such a rise.

4. Slang A police officer or detective.

5. Slang

a. Foolish, deceitful, or boastful language.

b. Insolent talk or behavior.

v. bulled, bull-ing, bulls

v.tr.

To push; force.

v.intr.

To push ahead or through forcefully: "*He bulls through the press horde that encircles the car*" ([Scott Turow](#)).

adj.

1. Male.

2. Large and strong like a bull.

3. Characterized by rising prices: *a bull market*.

Idiom:

grab/take the bull by the horns

To deal with a problem directly and resolutely.

[Middle English *bole*, *bule*, from Old English *bula*, probably from Old Norse *boli*; see **bhel**·² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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bull²  (b l)

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n.

1. An official document issued by the pope and sealed with a bulla.

2. The bulla used to seal such a document.

[Middle English *bulle*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *bulla*; see [BULLA](#).]

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n.
A gross blunder in logical speech or expression.

[Origin unknown.]

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n.
See [Taurus](#).

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Bull  (b l, b l), **Ole Bornemann** 1810-1880.

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Norwegian violinist who toured extensively through the United States and attempted to found a Norwegian colony in Pennsylvania (1852).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

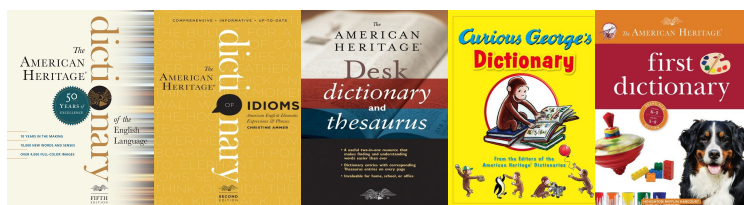
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European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

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