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bale¹  (bāl)

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n.

A large bundle of raw or finished material tightly bound with cord or wire and often wrapped: *a bale of hay*.

tr.v. **baled**, **bal·ing**, **bales**

To wrap in a bale or in bales: *a machine that bales cotton*.

[Middle English, from Old French; see **bhel**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

bal *er n.*



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bale1

bale of hay

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bale²  (bāl)

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n.

1. Evil: "*Tidings of bale she brought*" (William Cullen Bryant).

2. Mental suffering; anguish: "*Relieve my spirit from the bale that bows it down*" (Benjamin Disraeli).

[Middle English, from Old English *bealu*.]

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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:

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