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dictionary

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English
Language



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bold  (bōld)

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adj. **bold·er**, **bold·est**

1.

a. Fearless and daring; courageous: *a bold leader*.

b. Requiring or exhibiting courage or daring: *a bold voyage to unknown lands*. See Synonyms at [brave](#).

2. Unduly forward and brazen; impudent: *a bold, sassy child*.

3. Strikingly different or unconventional; arresting or provocative: "[He] laid out a bold, new vision for America's leading universities" ([Jerome Karabel](#)).

4.

a. Clear and distinct to the eye; conspicuous: *bold colors*; *a bold pattern*.

b. Strong or pronounced; prominent: *the bold flavor of ginger*.

5. Steep or abrupt in grade or terrain: "*The two walk along the high, bold, rocky shore*" (Harriet Beecher Stowe).

6. *Printing* Boldface.

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

bold *ly adv.*

bold *ness n.*

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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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