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bel·ly  (běl ē)

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n. pl. **bel·lies**

1. See [abdomen](#).

2. The underside of the body of certain vertebrate animals, such as a snake.

3. A cut of meat from the underside of an animal, especially a pig.

4. *Informal*

a. The stomach.

b. An appetite for food.

5. The womb; the uterus.

6.

a. A part that bulges or protrudes: *the belly of a sail*.

b. *Anatomy* The bulging, central part of a muscle.

7. A deep or central interior space: *the engine in the belly of a ship; fish down in the belly of a river*.

intr. & tr.v. **bel·lied, bel·ly·ing, bel·lies**

To bulge or cause to bulge. See Synonyms at [bulge](#).

Phrasal Verb:

belly up

To approach closely: *belly up to the bar*.

[Middle English *beli*, from Old English *belg*, bag; see **bhelgh-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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