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bend ¹  (běnd)

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v. **bent**(běnt), **bend·ing**, **bends**

v. *tr.*

1.

a. To cause to assume a curved or angular shape: *bend a piece of iron into a horseshoe.*

b. To bring (a bow, for example) into a state of tension by drawing on a string or line.

c. To force to assume a different direction or shape, according to one's own purpose: "*Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events*" (Robert F. Kennedy).

d. To misrepresent; distort: *bend the truth.*

e. To relax or make an exception to: *bend a rule to allow more members into the club.*

2. To cause to swerve from a straight line; deflect: *Light is bent as it passes through water.*

3. To render submissive; subdue: "*[His] words so often bewitched crowds and bent them to his will*" (W. Bruce Lincoln).

4. To apply (the mind) closely: "*The weary naval officer goes to bed at night having bent his brain all day to a scheme of victory*" (Jack Beatty).

5. *Nautical* To fasten: *bend a mainsail onto the boom.*

v. *intr.*

1.

a. To deviate from a straight line or position: *The lane bends to the right at the bridge.*

b. To assume a curved, crooked, or angular form or direction: *The saplings bent in the wind.*

2. To incline the body; stoop.

3. To make a concession; yield.

4. To apply oneself closely; concentrate: *She bent to her task.*

n.

1.

a. The act or fact of bending.

b. The state of being bent.

2. Something bent: *a bend in the road.*

3. *Nautical*

a. A knot that joins a rope to a rope or another object.

b. **bends** The thick planks in a ship's side; wales.

4. **bends** (*used with a sing. or pl. verb*) Decompression sickness. Used with *the*.

Idioms:

around the bend *Slang*

Mentally deranged; crazy.

bend (one's) elbow *Slang*

To drink alcoholic beverages.

bend out of shape *Slang*

To annoy or anger.

bend (or lean)over backward

To make an effort greater than is required.

bend (someone's) ear *Slang*

To talk to at length, usually excessively.

[Middle English *benden*, from Old English *bendan*; see **bhendh-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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bend²  (běnd)

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n.

Heraldry

A band passing from the upper dexter corner of an escutcheon to the lower sinister corner.

[Middle English, from Old English *bend*, band, and from Old French *bende*, *bande*, band (of Germanic origin; see **bhendh-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots).]



(click for a larger image)

bend²

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Bend  (běnd)

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A city of central Oregon on the Deschutes River in the eastern foothills of the Cascade Range.

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

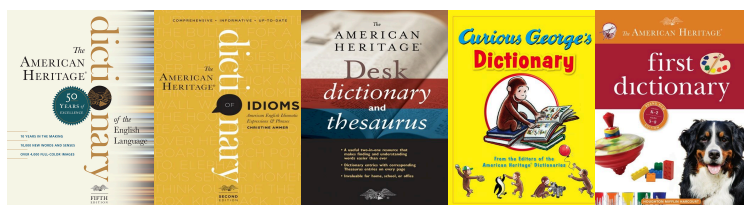
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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