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bear¹  (bâr)

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v. **bore** (bôr), **borne** (bôrn) or **born** (bôrn), **bear-ing**, **bears**

v.tr.

1.

a. To carry (something) on one's person from one place to another: *bore the suitcase to the station.*

b. To move from one place to another while containing or supporting (something); convey or transport: *a train bearing grain.* See Synonyms at [carry](#).

c. To cause to move by or with steady pressure; push: *a boat borne along by the current.*

d. To carry or hold in the mind over time; harbor: *bear a grudge; bear ill will.*

e. To have as a visible characteristic or attribute: *a letter bearing his name.*

2. To conduct (oneself) in a specified way: *She bore herself with dignity.*

3.

a. To hold up; support: *This wall bears much of the weight of the roof.*

b. To be accountable for; assume: *bearing heavy responsibilities.*

c. To have a tolerance for; endure: *couldn't bear his lying; can't bear to see them leave.* See Synonyms at [endure](#).

d. To have grounds for; call for; warrant: *This case bears investigation.*

4.

a. To give birth to: *bore six children.*

b. To produce; yield: *plants bearing fruit.* See Synonyms at [produce](#).

5. To offer; render: *I will bear witness to the deed.*

v.intr.

1. To yield fruit; produce: *peach trees that bear every summer.*

2. To have relevance or influence; apply: *They studied how the relativity theory bears on the history of science.*

3. To endure something with tolerance or patience: *Bear with me while I explain what happened.*

4.

a. To extend or proceed in a specified direction: *The road bears to the right at the bottom of the hill.*

b. To be directed or aimed in a certain direction or at a target: *The guns were brought to bear upon the approaching fleet.*

Phrasal Verbs:

bear down

1. To exert muscular pressure downward, as in giving birth to a baby.

2. To advance in a threatening manner: *The ship bore down on our canoe.*

3. To apply maximum effort and concentration: *If you really bear down, you will finish the task.*

bear out

To prove to be right or justified; confirm: *The test results bear out our claims.*

bear up

To withstand stress, difficulty, or attrition: *The patient bore up well during the long illness.*

Idioms:

bear a relation/relationship to

To have an association with or relevance to: *That remark bears no relation to the matter at hand.*

bear a resemblance/liking/similarity to

To be similar to; appear or function like.

bear down on

1. To move rapidly toward: *The ship bore down on the abandoned vessel.*

2. To affect in a harmful or adverse way: *Financial pressures are bearing down on them.*

bear fruit

To come to a satisfactory conclusion or to fruition.

bear in mind

To hold in one's mind; remember: *Bear in mind that bridges freeze before roads.*

[Middle English *beren*, from Old English *beran*; see **bher**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Usage Note: Thanks to the vagaries of English spelling, *bear* has two past participles: *born* and *borne*. Traditionally, *born* is used only in passive constructions referring to birth: *I was born in Chicago*. For all other uses, including active constructions referring to birth, *borne* is the standard form: *She has borne both her children at home. I have borne his insolence with the patience of a saint.*

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bear ²  (bâr)

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n.

1.

a. Any of various usually omnivorous mammals of the family Ursidae that have a shaggy coat and a short tail and walk with the entire lower surface of the foot touching the ground.

b. Any of various other animals, such as the koala, that resemble a true bear.

2. A large, clumsy, or ill-mannered person.

3.

a. One, such as an investor, that sells securities or commodities in expectation of falling prices.

b. A pessimist, especially regarding business conditions.

4. *Slang* Something that is difficult or unpleasant: *The final exam was a bear.*

5. *Slang* A highway patrol officer.

6. *Slang* A hairy, stocky gay man.

adj.

Characterized by falling prices: *a bear market.*

[Middle English *bere*, from Old English *bera*; see **bher**-² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#). Sense 3, probably from the proverb *to sell the bear's skin before catching the bear*.]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

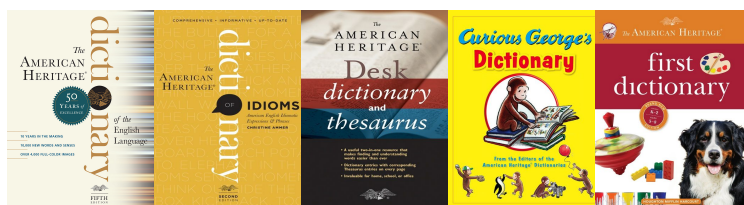
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