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bloat  (blōt)

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v. **bloat·ed**, **bloat·ing**, **bloats**

v.*tr.*

1. To cause to swell up or inflate, as with liquid or gas.
2. To cure (fish) by soaking in brine and half-drying in smoke.

v.*intr.*

To become swollen or inflated: "*Government had bloated out of control*" (*Lance Morrow*).

n.

1. A swelling of the rumen or intestinal tract of cattle and domestic animals that is caused by excessive gas formation following fermentation of ingested watery legumes or green forage.
2. An excess or surfeit, as of employees, expenses, or procedures: *corporate bloat*.

[From Middle English *blout*, soft, puffed, from Old Norse *blautr*, soft, soaked; see **bhleu-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

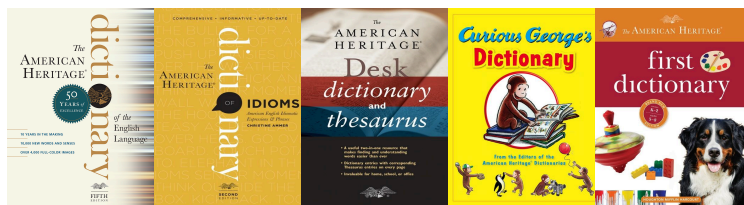
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