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broth·er  (brŭth ər)

Share:

n. pl. broth·ers

1. A male having the same parents as another or one parent in common with another.
2. *pl. also breth·ren* (brĕth rən) One who shares a common ancestry, allegiance, character, or purpose with another or others, especially:
 - a. A kinsman.
 - b. A fellow man.
 - c. A fellow member, as of a fraternity, trade union, or panel of judges on a court.
 - d. A close male friend; a comrade.
 - e. A fellow African American man or boy.
3. *pl. also brethren* Something, such as a corporation or institution, that is regarded as a member of a class: “A station that ... relies on corporate contributions or advertising to survive runs the risk of becoming virtually indistinguishable from its commercial brethren” (W. John Moore).
4.
 - a. *Abbr. Br. or Bro.* A lay member of a religious order of men.
 - b. *pl. also brethren* A fellow member of the Christian church.

[Middle English, from Old English *brōthor*; see **bhrāter-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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