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Language



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bray¹  (brā)

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v. brayed, bray·ing, brays

v.intr.

1. To utter the loud, harsh cry of a donkey.
2. To sound loudly and harshly: *The foghorn brayed all night.*

v.tr.

To emit (an utterance or a sound) loudly and harshly.

n.

1. The loud, harsh cry of a donkey.
2. A sound resembling that of a donkey: "*an endless bray of pointless jocosity*" ([Louis Auchincloss](#)).

[Middle English *braien*, from Old French *braire*, from Vulgar Latin **bragere*, of Celtic origin.]

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bray²  (brā)

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tr.v. brayed, bray·ing, brays

1. To crush and pound to a fine consistency, as in a mortar.
2. To spread (ink) thinly over a surface.

[Middle English *braien*, from Old French *breier*, of Germanic origin; see **bhreg-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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