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Language


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**bar**<sup>1</sup>  (bär)

Share:

*n.*

1. A relatively long, straight, rigid piece of solid material used as a fastener, support, barrier, or structural or mechanical member.

2.

a. A solid oblong block of a substance or combination of ingredients, such as soap or candy.

b. A usually rectangular slice of any of various flat baked confections that are typically dense in texture.

c. A rectangular block of a precious metal.

3. *Sports*

a. See [horizontal bar](#).

b. A horizontal rod that marks the height to be cleared in high jumping or pole vaulting.

4. A standard, expectation, or degree of requirement: *a leader whose example set a high bar for others*.

5. Something that impedes or prevents action or progress: *A poor education was a bar to his ambitions*.

6. A ridge, as of sand or gravel, on a shore or streambed, that is formed by the action of tides or currents.

7. A narrow marking, as a stripe or band.

8.

a. A narrow metal or embroidered strip worn on a military uniform indicating rank or service.

b. *Chiefly British* A small insignia worn on a military decoration indicating that it has been awarded an additional time.

9. *Heraldry* A pair of horizontal parallel lines drawn across a shield.

10. *Law*

a. The nullification, defeat, or prevention of a claim or action.

b. The process by which nullification, defeat, or prevention is achieved.

11. The railing in a courtroom separating the participants in a legal proceeding from the spectators.

12. A court or courtroom.

13. *Law*

a. Attorneys considered as a group. Used with *the*.

b. The profession of law. Used with *the*.

14. *Music*

a. A vertical line drawn through a staff to mark off a measure.

b. A measure.

15. Variant of [barre](#).

16.

a. A counter at which drinks, especially alcoholic drinks, and sometimes food, are served.

b. An establishment or room having such a counter.

*tr.v.* **barred**, **bar·ring**, **bars**

1. To fasten securely with a long, straight, rigid piece of material: *barred the gate*.

2. To shut in or confine: *barred themselves in the basement*.

3. To obstruct or impede; block: *barred the access route*.

4. To keep out; exclude: *Tourists are barred from this room*.

5.

a. To prohibit or prevent (someone) from doing something: *Failing the eye exam barred him from driving*.

b. To prohibit (an action): *The state bars the dumping of waste in the river*.

c. *Law* To nullify, defeat, or prevent (a claim or action).

6. To rule out; except: *Can we bar the possibility of foul play?*

7. To mark with stripes or bands.

*prep.*  
Chiefly British Except for; excluding: *This was your best performance, bar none.*  
**Idiom:**  
**behind bars**  
In prison.

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[Middle English *barre*, from Old French; see [BARRE](#).]

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**bar**<sup>2</sup>  (bär)

Share:

*n.*  
A unit of pressure equal to one million (10<sup>6</sup>) dynes per square centimeter.

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[Greek *baros*, weight; see *g<sup>w</sup>erǝ-<sup>1</sup>* [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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**bar-**

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*pref.*  
Variant of [baro-](#).

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**Bar.**

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*abbr.*  
*Bible*  
Baruch

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**bar.**

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*abbr.*  
**1.**  
**a.** barometer  
**b.** barometric  
**2.** barrel

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**BAR**

Share:

*abbr.*  
Browning automatic rifle

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## Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

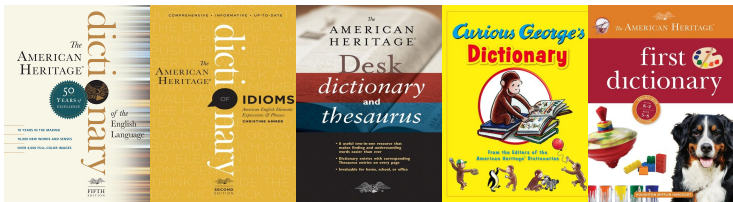
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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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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