

begin *v* (OE *beginnan*, *be-* about + **ginnan*, a Teutonic verb meaning 'begin', OS and OHG *biginnan*); **F** commencer, **S** comenzar, iniciar, **I** cominciare, iniziare, **G** beginnen, anfangen; to set oneself to do (*sth*), to enter upon, to commence

be-gin-ner *n* (*begin* verb + *-er*; early 14c); **F** débutant/e, **S** principiante m/f, **I** principiante m/f, **G** Anfänger/in; one who begins

be-gin-ning *vbl sb* (*begin* verb + *-ing*; early 13c); **F** début m, commencement m, **S** principio m, **I** principio m, inizio m, **G** Anfang m, Beginn m; the action of entering upon existence or upon action

be-gone *exclamation, lit*, go away!, *begone*, and *I don't want to see you anymore*

be-go-nia *n* (after Michael Bégon, a French botanist; 18c); **F** bégonia m, **S** begonia f, **I** begònia f, **G** Begonie f; a tropical herbaceous plant, having richly-coloured foliage, introduced to Britain from Jamaica in 1777

begot past tense of **beget**

be-got-ten past part. of **beget**

be-grudge *v* (*be-* + *grudge*, ME *grucchen* to murmur; 14c); **F** donner à contrecœur, **S** dar de mala gana, tener envidia a, **I** däre a malincuore, invidiare, **G** nur ungerne geben, j-m mißgönnen; to show dissatisfaction, to grumble at, *he begrudges spending any money*

be-grudg-ing-ly *adv*

be-guile *v* (*be-* + *guile*, cognate with **wile**; 13c); **F** enjôler, séduire, **S** engañar, seducir, **I** abbindolare, **G** betrügen, täuschen; to deceive, to divert attention in some pleasant way, *he was beguiled by her charm*

be-guil-ing *adj vbl noun* (*beguile* + *-ing*; late 14c); **F** charmant/e, séduisant/e, **S** seductor/a, atractivo/a, **I** attraente, seducènte, **G** verführerisch/e; attracting, charming, *a beguiling smile*

begum *n* *Indian-English*, a married Muslim woman of high social rank, the title she uses

begun past part. of **begin**

be-half *n* (combination of earlier *on his halve* and *bi halve him*, both meaning on this side, ME *behalve*; 14c); **F** au nom de qn, de la part de qn, **S** de parte de, **I** a favóre di, a nôme di, **G** im Namen von, im Auftrag von; **in behalf of sb**, **in sb's behalf**, in order to help sb, *we did it in her behalf*, **on behalf of sb**, **on sb's behalf**, as the representative of sb/sth, *on behalf of my company*

be-have *v* (OE *behabban*, OHG *bihabên*, *be-* thoroughly + *have*, to have or bear oneself, used to express a qualified sense of 'have', as 'detain, contain', see Modern German 'sich behaben', see L *habêre*, and **habit**; early 15c); **F** se comporter, se conduire, **S** portarse, conducirse, **I** comportàrsi, **G** sich (gut) benehmen, sich zu benehmen wissen; *refl* to conduct oneself, to conduct oneself with propriety (said of young people who could misbehave), *behave yourself!*

be-hav-iour *n* (*behave* + *hav(i)our*, OF *haveir* possession, see L *habêre*, and **habit**; 15c); **F** comportement m, conduite f, **S** conducta f, comportamiento m, **I** comportamènto m, **G** Benehmen n, Verhalten n; the way one behaves, *John's good behaviour*, the way an animal, a chemical, etc, reacts in a particular situation, *animal behaviour*

be-hav-iourism *n* (*behaviour* + *-ism*; early 20c); **F** behavio(ur)isme m, **S** conductismo m, behaviorismo m, **I** comportamentismo m, behaviorismo m, **G** Behaviorismus m; a method of psychological investigation based on the theory of behaviour

be-head *v* (OE *behéafðian*, *be-* priv + *héafod* head, MHG *behoubeten*); **F** décapiter, **S** decapitar, descabezar, **I** decapitare, **G** enthaupten; to decapitate, to deprive of the head, *Ann Boleyn was beheaded by order of Henry VIII*

be-held past tense and past part. of **behold**

be-hest *n* *formal* (OE *behes* to promise, from *behātan* to promise, ME *bihese*, *bihes-te*, cognate with OHG *hizan* to order); **F** ordre m, commandement m, **S** por orden de, **I** ordine m, proméssa f, **G** Geheiß n, Veranlassung f; a promise, a request, **at sb's behest**, *formal*, because sb has ordered sth to happen, *at the president's behest*, land of promise, *the land of behest*

be-hind¹ *adv* (OS *behindan*, OE *behindan*, *be-* + *hintan*, ModG *hinten*); **F** derrière, par derrière, **S** detrás, por detrás, **I** diétro, di diétro, **G** hinten; towards the back of sb/sth, *they are a long way behind*

be-hind² *prep* **F** derrière, **S** detrás de, **I** diétro, **G** hinter; at the rear of, *behind the door*

be-hind³ *n* **F** derrière m, **S** trasero m, culo m, **I** didiétro m, sedere m, **G** Hintern m, Gesäß n; *informal*, a person's bottom

be-hold *v* *lit* (OS and OE *bihaldan*, *be-* + *haldan* to hold, OHG *bihaltan*, see ModG *behalten*); **F** voir, *interj* voyez!, **S** contemplar, *interj* fijese bien! **I** vedére, scòrgere, *interj* guarda!, guardate!, **G** erblicken, anschauen, *interj* siehe da!; to look at sb/sth, *behold the results!*

be-holden *adj*, **feel/be beholden**, to feel that you have a duty to someone, because they have done sth for you, *I feel beholden to him for the help he gave me*

be-hold-er *n* (*behold* + *-er*; 14c); **F** spectateur/trice, **S** espectador/ora, observador/ora, **I** spettatore/trice, **G** Beschauer/in; a looker or spectator

be-hove *v* *formal old* *flash*. (OE *bi-*, *behóðian*, MHG *behuof* useful thing, MLG *behoven*, Dutch *behoeven*); **F** incomber à, **S** le incumbe, **I** èssere necessário, convenire (a), **G** es obliegt dir, ist deine Pflicht; be necessary for, **it behoves somebody to do sth**, used to mean that it is right for someone to do sth

beige *adj/n* (*F beige*, MedL *bigus* of two colours; 19c); **F** beige, **S** beige, **I** bëige, **G** Beige n, beige adj; pale-brown in colour, *a beige shirt*

being¹ *vbl n* (*be* verb + *-ing*; early 14c); **F** être m, créature f, **S** ser m, **I** èssere m, esistenza f, **G** (Da)Sein n; a person or thing that exists, *a human being*, the state of existing or of beginning to exist, *to come into being*

being² *present participle of to be*

be-jew-el (*be* + *jewel*; 16c); **F** parer de bijoux, **S** enjoyar, **I** ingioiellàre, adornàre, **G** mit Edelsteinen besetzen; to adorn sth with jewels, *a sky bejewelled with stars*

be-la-bour *v* (*be* + *labour*; early 17c); **F** rouer de coups, **S** apalear, criticar, **I** bättere, accanirsi su, **G** (mit den Fäusten) bearbeiten; *formal*, to emphasize an idea too strongly, in a way that becomes annoying, **to belabour the point**, to repeat an idea many times in order to emphasize it

be-lated *v* (*be* + *late*; 17c); **F** attardé/e, tardif/ive, **S** atrasado/a, tardio/a, **I** in ritàrdo, tardivo/a, **G** verspätet, von der Nacht überrascht; overtaken by lateness of the night, detained beyond the usual time, *a belated letter of apology*

belay (OE *belecgan*, OHG *bileckan*, *bilegen*, ModG *belegen*, Dutch *beleggen*, OE *lecgan* to lay); **F** amarrer, assurer, **S** amarrar, **I** legàre, fissàre, **G** festmachen; *techn* to attach a rope to a rock, to make safe someone who is climbing by attaching a rope to a rock

belch¹ *v* (OE *bealchian*, *bælcian*, ME *belken*, cognate with Middle Dutch *belken* roar, cry out); **F** éructer, avoir un renvoi, **S** eructar, **I** ruttàre, **G** aufstoßen; to give out harsh sounds from your mouth, to let air from your stomach come out loudly through your mouth, *the volcano belched smoke and fire*

belch² *n* (from the verb; 16c); **F** éructation f, renvoi m, **S** eructo m, **I** rütto m, **G** Rülps m; the act of belching, an eructation

be-lea-guer *n* (Dutch *belegeren*, *be* + *lager* camp, ModG *belagern*; see **leaguer**; late 16c); **F** assiéger, **S** asediar, **I** assediare, **G** belagern, umgeben; to besiege, *a man beleaguered by problems*, to surround with an idea of hostility, *in 1527 Rome was beleaguered by the Landsknechte of Charles V*

beleaguered *past part. adj* besieged, invested

bel-fry *n* (ME *berefrey*, OF *belfroy*, MHG *berfrit*, LL *berefrēdus*, *belfrēdus*, *machina lignea*); **F** beffroi m, clocher m, **S** campanario m, **I** campanile m, **G** Glockenturm m; in a church, the tower that has a bell

belie *v formal* (OE *bi-*, *be-* about + *licgan* to lie, OHG *biligan*, MHG *biligen*); **F** démentir, **S** desmentir, contradecir, **I** alterare, travisare, **G** falsch darstellen, widerstellen; to give a false impression of sth, *his optimism long belied the reality*

bel-lief *n* (OE *geleafa*, ME *bileafa*, OHG *giloubo*, MHG *geloube*, **G** *Glaube*, see **believe**; 12c); **F** conviction f, croyance f, **S** creencia f, opinión f, **I** credenza f, opinión f, **G** *Glaube* m; the action of confiding in a person or thing, *the belief in scientific progress*, something that you believe, *religious belief*

bel-iev-able *adj* (*believe* verb + *-able*; late 14c); **F** croyable, crédible, **S** creible, **I** credibile, **G** glaubhaft/e; credible, that can be believed, *a believable conjecture*

bel-ieve *v* (ME *believen*, OE *belyfan*, *belēfan*, cognate with OHG *gilouben*, Gothic *galaubjan*, from Proto-Germanic); **F** croire, **S** creer, dar crédito a, **I** credere, **G** glauben; to feel certain that sth is true, *I never believed in your words*

bel-iever *n* (*believe* + *-er*; 16c); **F** croyant/-ante, **S** creyente m/f, fiel m/f, **I** credente m, **G** Gläubiger m; one who believes, one who has faith, *a believer in God*

Be-li-sha **bea-con** *n* (after *Leslie Hore-Belisha*, Minister of Transport + *beacon*; 20c); also said *Belisha crossing*, in Great Britain, a post with a flashing light, marking a zebra crossing where cars must stop, to allow people to cross the road

bel-lit-tle *v* (*be-* + *little*; late 18c; the word appears to have originated in the US); **F** rabaisser, déprécier, **S** despreciar, minimizar, **I** sminuire, deprezzare, **G** verkleinern, herabsetzen; to depreciate, to diminish the importance of sb/sth, *she belittled my achievements*

bell *n* (OE *belle*, cognate with Middle Dutch and MLG *belle* bell); **F** cloche f, clochette f, **S** campana f, campanilla f, **I** campàna f, campanella f, **G** Glocke f, Klingel f; a hollow metal object shaped like a cap which makes a sound when hit by a clapper inside it, *to ring the bell*, *a church-bell*

bella-donna *n* (ModL; adaptation from It *belladonna* 'fair lady', *bellus* pretty + *domina* a female head of a household; late 16c); a poisonous plant, the substance produced by this plant used as a drug

bell-bottoms *n* trousers with legs that become very wide below the knee

bell-boy *n* *BrE* a man in a hotel employed to carry cases, to open doors, etc

belle *adj/n old-fashioned* (ModF, L *bella*, feminine of *bellus* beautiful, fair; 17c); beautiful, handsome, *noun* a beautiful woman, *the belle of the party*

bel-li-cose *adj* (It *bellicoso*, L *bellicōsus*, from *bellum* war; 15c); **F** belliqueux/-euse, **S** belicoso/a, **I** bellicōso/a, **G** kriegslustig, kriegerisch; inclined to war, warlike, *a bellicose tribe*

bel-li-cos-ity *n* the condition of being bellicose, *the bellicosity of the German tribes*, as *Tacitus narrates*

bellied *adj* see **belly** *adj* having a belly, having a big belly

bel-liger-ence *n* (*belligerent* adj + *-ence*; early 19c); **F** belligérance f, **S** beligerancia f, **I** belligeranza f, **G** Kriegführung f; the carrying on of hostilities

bel-liger-ent *adj/n* (1577 *belligerant*, apparently through influence of It *belligerante*, 1480, L *belliger-āntem*, from *belligerāre* to wage war); **F** belligérant/-ante, **S** belligerante, **I** belligerānte m, bellicōso/a, **G** Kriegführend; unfriendly, hostile, *a belligerent behaviour*, *formal* (said of a country) fighting a war, *a non-belligerent nation*

bel-low¹ *v* (origin unclear); **F** mugir, beugler, **S** bramar, rugir, **I** muggire, **G** brüllen; to roar as a bull when excited, *esp* at rutting time, of human being to cry in a loud and deep voice, *the bull was bellowing*

bel-low² *n* (from the verb; 18c); **F** mugissement m, beuglement m, **S** bramido m, rugido m, **I** muggito m, **G** Gebrüll n; the roar of a bull, a loud deep cry

bel-lows *n* (ME *belowes*, OE *belga*, *belgum*, ON *blástrbelgr*, cf German *Blaselbalg*); **F** soufflet m, soufflerie f, **S** fuelle m, **I** mântice, **G** Blaselbalg; an instrument or machine used to blow a fire, for supplying air to a wind-instrument, as an organ or harmonium

bell-push *n* a button you push to make a bell ring

bell-ringer *n* (*bell* + *ringer*; 16c); **F** carillonneur m, **S** campanero m, **I** campanaro m, **G** Glöckner m; one who rings the church bells

belly¹ *n* (OE *bælig* bug, envelope (of beans and peas), later *beli*, ON *belgr* bag, OHG *balg* bag, skin, Gothic *balgs*, from Proto-Germanic, related to **belly**); **F** ventre m, **S** vientre m, **I** vèntre m, pància f, **G** Bauch m, Magen m; the abdomen, the part of the body containing the intestines, the deep interior of anything

belly² *verb lit* (from the noun; early 17c); **bellies**, **bellying**, **bellied**, *lit* **F** enfler, gonfler, **S** llenarse de viento, **I** gonfiare, gonfiarsi, **G** (sich) (an)schwellen; to fill with air and become rounder in shape, *the sails bellied at the breeze*

belly *adj* ventral, abdominal

belly-ache *n informal* a belly in the stomach

belly button *n* navel, or the small round mark in the middle of the stomach

belly dance *n* a dance from the Middle East, in which a woman moves her belly and hips around

belly-flop *n* a bad dive into water, in which the body hits the water flat

bellyful *n informal* have a bellyful of sb/sth, to have more than you can deal with of someone or something bad or annoying, *I have had a bellyful of his bad behaviour*

be-long *v* (OE *gelang*, ME *belongen*, *bi-* + *longen* go along with, OHG *bilangēn*, Middle Dutch *belanghen*, ModG and Dutch *belangen*, see **long** *v*; 14c); **F** appartenir à, **S** pertenecer, **I** appartenere (a), èssere (di), **G** gehören (zu); to pertain to, to concern, to be the property of, to be connected (with), *this farm belongs to me*

be-long-ings *verbal noun* (*belong* + *-ing*; early 17c); **F** affaires f/pl, **S** pertenencias, **I** averi m/pl, beni m/pl, **G** Habe f, Zubehör n; things that you own, and that can be carried, *my personal belongings are in this suitcase*

be-loved *adj* (past part. of *belove*, ME *biluven*, *be* + *loven* to love, ModG *belieben*, Dutch *believen*; obsolete, except in *ppl*, which is used as an *adj*; late 14c); **F** aimé, bien-aimé, **S** querido m, amada f, **I** dilëtto/a, amàto/a, **G** *adj* geliebt, *n* der Geliebte; much loved, *Henry's beloved wife*

below *adv* and *prep* (*be* prep + *low* adj; it began as a variant of *a-low*, the parallel form to *an-high*, now *on high*; 'below' and 'beneath' constitute the opposite of 'above'; 14c); **F** au en bas, (au) dessous, **S** abajo, por debajo, **I** sòtto, in bàsso, **G** unten, unter; in a low position, in a lower place, lower down

belt¹ *n* (OE *belt*, Old Icelandic *belti*, OHG *balz*, from L *baltēus* girdle, belt, MedL *baltheus*); **F** ceinture f, **S** cinturón m, cinta f, **I** cinta f, cintura f, **G** Gürtel m, Gurt m; a band of flexible material used to encircle a person, a strip of leather

that you wear around the waist, *to fasten the belt*, an area with particular characteristics, *the corn belt*

belt² *v* *informal* (from the noun; late 13c); to hit hard, with violence, *to belt sb in the face*, of a vehicle *informal* to travel with great speed, *the car belted along the road*

belt-ed *adj* with a belt around it, *a belted jacket*

belt-way *n* a ring road, especially the one around Washington DC

be-moan *v* (OE *bi-*, *bemænan* to moan, see **moan**); **F** pleurer, **S** lamentar, **I** lamentàre, **G** beklagen, betrauern; to express grief or disappointment, to lament, *bemoan one's fate*

be-muse *vt* (OE *be-mænan*, *be-muse v*, cf **amuse**; 18c); **F** confondre, **S** aturdir, confundir, **I** confondere, lasciàre perplèssò, **G** verwirren; to make (somebody) confused, *she was bemused by his attentions*

be-mused *adj* **F** perplexe, **S** aturrido/a, absorto/a, **I** confuso/a, perplèssò/a, **G** verwirrt/e; looking as if you are confused, bewildered, *he was bemused by his father's questions*

bench *n* (OE *benc*, OS, OHG, Middle Dutch *bank*, see *bank*, introduced into English through Romanic; in sense of 'the seat where the judges sit in court translates L *bancum*, Anglo-French *baunc*, *baunk*); **F** banc m, banquette f, **S** banco m, **I** pànca f, banco m, **G** Bank f, Richterbank f; a long seat, usually of wood, with or without a back, the judge's sit in court; **the Benches**, in the British Parliament, a seat where a particular group of politicians sit, *the Opposition Benches*

bench-mark *n* (19c); **F** référence, repère (de nivellement), **S** cota f, punto m topográfico, **I** caposaldo m di livellazione, tèrmine m di paragòne, **G** Vergleich; something that can be used as a standard to compare other things with, *price of housing is a benchmark of the cost of life*

bend¹ *v* (OE *bendan* tighten (a bow), ON *benda* to bend, MHG *benden*, of Germanic origin; late 13c); **F** courber, ployer, fléchir, **S** encorvar, doblar, torcer, **I** curvare, piegare, **G** biegen, krümmen; to constrain with a 'bend' or bond, to bow or curve, to bow oneself, to direct a weapon

bend² *n* (see *bend verb*; 15c); **F** courbure f, tournant m, virage m, **S** curva f, recodo m, vuelta f, **I** cùrva f, svòlta f, piegatura f, **G** Biegung f, Krümmung f, Windung f, Kurve f; to lean, to make sth lean, *to bend the head*

bend-er *n* *slang* (*bend* + *-er*); a period during which one drinks a lot of alcohol, *to go on a bender*

bends *plural n* the medical condition that divers get when they come up to the surface too quickly

bendy *adj* *informal* (see *bend verb*; 15c); **F** flexible, **S** flexible, tortuoso/a, **I** flessibile, tortuoso/a, **G** biegsam, flexibel; having many curves, *a bendy road*, flexible, easy to bend, **bendy bus** a long bus that can bend in the middle

be-neath *prep/adv* (OE *binidan*, *be* + *nidan* below, down, MHG *niden(e)*, ModG *nieden*, see **nether**; early 12c as *benethan*); **F** dessous, au-dessous, **S** abajo, debajo, **I** sótto, al di sótto di, **G** darunter, unterhalb; in a low or lower position, *a marriage beneath her social condition*, *beneath the clothes*, fig. *beneath my dignity*

Bene-dic-tine *adj/n* (F *Bénédictin*, L *benedictus*; 17c); **F** Bénédictin/-ine, **S** Benedictino/a, **I** Benedettino/-a, **G** Benediktiner m; belonging to the religious order founded by St Benedict

bene-dic-tion *n* (ME *benediccioun*, L *benedicti-ōnem*, L *bene* + *dicere* to speak well of, OF *benedicion*; early 15c); **F** bénédiction f, **S** benedición f, **I** benediziòne f, **G** Segnung f; a blessing, a prayer asking God to bless and protect someone

bene-fac-tion *n* (LL *benefacti-ōnem*, the action of the verb *benefacere*, see **benefit**; 17c); **F** bienfaisance f, **S** beneficio m, **I** beneficènza f, òpera f di carità, **G** Wohltat f, Geschenk

n; the act of doing good, a present, especially money, that one gives an organization or a person to help them

bene-fac-tor *n* (L *benefactor*, from *benefacere*, see **benefit**; 16c); **F** bienfaiteur/-trice, **S** bienhechor/-ora, benefactor/-ora, **I** benefattore/-trice, **G** Wohltäter m; one who gives money for charitable purposes, *a generous benefactor helped us*

bene-fice *n* (OF *benefice*, L *beneficium*, *bene* well + *-ficium* a doing, from *facere* to do; 14c); **F** bénéfice m, **S** beneficio m, **I** beneficio m, **G** Vorteil m, Nutzen m; the pay and position of a priest who is in charge of a parish, *ecclesiastical benefice*

bene-fi-cent *adj* (L *benefic-entem*, probably formed on the pattern of *benevolent*, *magnificent*, etc; early 17c); **F** bienfaisant/-ante, **S** benéfico/a, **I** benéfico/a, caritatévole, **G** wohltätig, wohltuend; doing good, *a beneficent institution*

bene-fi-cial *adj* (F *bénéficial*, L *benefici-ālem*, from *beneficium*; 15c); **F** avantageux-euse, salulaire, **S** beneficioso/a, provechoso/a, **I** benéfico/a, che rèca giovaménto, **G** nützlich, wohltuend; advantageous, profitable, *a beneficial treatment*

bene-fi-ci-ary *n* (L *beneficiarius*, F *bénéficiaire*, see suffix *-ary*; 17c); **F** bénéficiaire m, **S** beneficiario/a, **I** beneficiario m, **G** Begünstigter m; one who gets money from somebody who is dead, *the main beneficiary of their uncle's inheritance*, *hist* holding a benefice, pertaining to a benefice, *esp* a feudal tenure

bene-fit *n* (ME and A-F *benfet*, F *bienfait*, L *benefactum* good deed, *bene* good + *facere* to do; 14c); **F** avantage m, profit m, **S** beneficio m, utilidad f, **I** beneficio m, vantaggio m, **G** Vorteil m, Nutzen m; advantage, *they received a lasting benefit*

bene-vo-lent *adj* (OF *benivolent*, L *bene volē-ntem*, *bene* well + *volēntem* wishing, willing; 15c); **F** bienveillant/e, **S** benévolo/a, **I** benévolo/a, benevolènte, **G** gütig, mildtätig; well wishing, of a generous disposition, *a benevolent man*

Ben-gali *adj* belonging to Bengal, *n* a native of Bengal, the language of Bengal

be-nigh-ted *adj* (past part. of **benight verb**, *be* + *night*; 16c); **F** plongé dans (les ténèbres de) l'ignorance, **S** ignorante, **I** ottenebrato/a, ignorànte, **G** von der Dunkelheit überrascht; without understanding, intellectually unenlightened, *old fashioned* overtaken by the darkness of the night

be-nign *adj* (OF *benigne*, L *benignus* good natured, from a **benigēnus*, *bene* well + *-genus* born, from *gignere* to create, Gr *γίγνομαι* come into being; 14c); **F** bénin/-igne, **S** benigno/a, **I** benigno/a, **G** gütig, günstig; of a kind disposition, *a benign temperament*

bent *adj* (past part. of **bend v**); **F** courbé/e, plié/e, **S** encorvado/a, torcido/a, **I** piegato/a, cùrvo/a, **G** entschlossen; crooked, constrained into a curve, *a bent old man*, *UK slang* dishonest, *a bent politico*

bent *n* (from the adjective, probably on analogy of words like *'descent-descend'*, *'extend-extent'* etc; 16c); **F** penchant m, inclination f, **S** inclinación f, **I** inclinazione f, disposizione f, **G** Neigung f; a curved position, an inclination, *Peter has a natural bent for literary subjects*, **to be bent on (doing) something**, to be determined to do something, usually bad, *she was bent on tormenting her husband's life*

ben-zene or **benzine** *n* *chem* (*benzoic*(acid) + *-ene*); the name was coined as Benzin in 1833 by the German chemist E. Mitscherlich, and borrowed as **benzine** in 1835); **F** benzène m, benzine f, **S** benceno m, bencina f, **I** benzèna m, benzina f, **G** Benzol n, Benzin f; a colourless liquid obtained from coal, used for making plastics; the **benzine** is obtained from petrol, and is used for cleaning clothes

be-queath *vt* (OE *becwethan* to give by will, from *be-* about + *cwethan* say; the word is retained in the traditional language of wills); **F** léguer (à), **S** legar, **I** lasciàre in eredità,

legare per testamento, **G** hinterlassen, überliefern; to leave by will, *he bequeathed his fortune to a research center*

bequest *n* (ME *biqueste*, OE *bī-cwisse*, *bī* be + *cwis* something said; *bequest* answers to the verb **bequeath**, the later change being parallel to that of **behest**); **F** legs m, **S** legado m, **I** lascito m, legato m, **G** Vermächtnis n, Hinterlassenschaft f; the act of bequeathing, a legacy, *he made a bequest to his first wife*

berate *v* (*be* + *rate* to scold, mainly *AmE*; 16c); **F** réprimander, **S** censurar, **I** rimproverare, **G** heftig ausschelten, auszanken; to scold, to chide severely, *John was severely berated by his father*

bereave *v* (OE *bī-berēafian*, OS *biroban*, Middle Dutch *beroven*, MHG *berouben*, OHG *biroubōn*, ModG *berauben*, from Proto-Germanic); **F** priver, déposséder, **S** privar, **I** privare, **G** berauben, hilflos zurücklassen; to deprive, *those who have been bereaved*

bereaved *adj* (1200 as *bireavod*); having lost a relative who recently died, *the bereaved husband*

bereavement (*bereave* + *-ment*; 18c); **F** deuil m, **S** aflicción f, pérdida f, **I** privazióne f, lutto m, pèrdita f, **G** schmerzlicher Verlust, Trauerfall m; the fact of being bereaved or deprived of something

bereft *adj past part.* of **bereave**, robbed, deprived of something

beret *n* (*F* *béret*, earlier *berret*, *MedL* *birretum*, *LL* *birrus*; 19c); **F** béret m, **S** boina f, **I** berrétto m, **G** Baskenmütze f; a round flat woollen cap with a band around the head

berk *n BrE slang*, a stupid person

Bermuda shorts *n* short trousers that come down to the knees

berry *n* (OE *berie*, OHG *beri*, OS *win-beri* grape, MHG *ber*, *bere*, ModG *Beere*); **F** baie f, **S** baya f, grano m (of coffee), **I** baccia f, **G** Beere f; any small round fruit, not having a stone, *eg gooseberry, raspberry, strawberry*, etc

berserk, **-er** *adj* (Old Icelandic *berserkr*, referring to a Norse warrior who fought with extraordinary courage; early 19c); **F** furieux/euse, **S** perder los estribos, **I** furioso/a, forsennato/a, **G** wütend, rasend; frenzied, madly violent, *esp* in the phrase *to go berserk*

berth¹ *n* (nautical, of uncertain origin, apparently a derivative of **bear** *v*, or a new formation on **bear**; 1622, but the sense of 'sleeping place in a ship' is first recorded in 1796); **F** couchette f, poste m de mouillage ou d'amarrage, **S** camarote m, amarradero m, **I** cuccetta f, ancoraggio m, **G** Liegeplatz m, See-Raum m, Bett n; place to sleep on a ship, in a train or in a caravan, *he slept in a berth in the train from London*, a place where a ship or boat can take an anchorage, a dock

berth² *v* (from the noun; 17c); **F** accoster le long du quai, **S** atracar, **I** ormeggiare, ancorare, **G** docken, vor Anker legen; to bring a ship into a berth, arrive at a berth

beseech *v* (OS *sēcan*, ME *be* + *sec(h)en*, *seken* to seek; *cogn* with Old Frisian *bisēka*, ModG *besuchen*; see **seek**); **F** supplier, implorer, **S** suplicar, **I** supplicare, implorare, **G** dringend bitten, ersuchen; *lit.* to implore, to beg, to ask anxiously for sth

beset *v* (OE *beseltan* surround, cognate with Old Frisian *bisetta* surround, OHG *bisezzan*, MHG *besetzen*, from Proto-Germanic); **F** assaillir, **S** acosar, perseguir, **I** assalire, attaccare, **G** umgeben; to besiege, to surround with hostile intentions, *our life is beset with too many problems*

beside *prep/adv* (ME *bisiden*, OE *besidan*, *be* by + *sidan* side, by the side); **F** à côté de, auprès de, **S** junto a, al lado de, **I** accanto a, vicino a, **G** neben; by the side of, to the side of, *Catharine was sitting beside Peter*

besides *prep/adv* (ME *bisiden* beside + *-s*, variant form of the adverbial genitive ending in *-es*; 13c); **F** en outre, en plus, **S** además, además de, **I** ànche, oltre a, **G** außerdem, noch dazu; *besides Joan, there were Peter and Andrew*

besiege *v* (ME *be* + *sege(n)*, aphetic form of *asegen*, see **assiege**, **siege**, *L* *sedes* seat; late 13c); **F** assiéger, **S** asediar, **I** assediare, **G** belagern; to lay siege to a castle, to a town, etc, *Troy was besieged by the Greeks*

besmirch *v* (*be* + *smirch* *v*; early 17c); **F** salir, tacher, **S** manchar, mancillar, **I** imbrattare, appannare, **G** besudeln; to discolour, as with smoke or mud, *fig.* to dishonour, to discredit, *to besmirch the reputation of somebody*

besotted *adj* (past part. of *besot*, *be* + *-sot*, French, to affect with a foolish affection; 16c); **F** entiché, abruti/e, **S** entontecido/a, **I** ébbro/a, infatuato/a, **G** dumm, töricht; infatuated, *he was besotted by his girl friend*

besought past part. of **beseech**

bespectacled *adj* **F** qui porte des lunettes, **S** con gafas, **I** occhialuto/a, **G** bebrillt; wearing spectacles, having spectacles on

besought past part. *adj* of **beseech**

best *adj & adv* (OE *betst*, ME *beste*, OHG *bezzist*, Danish *best*, OS and Middle Dutch *best*, Swedish *bäst*; early 13c); **F** meilleur/ure, le meilleur, **S** mejor, **I** migliore, **G** best; superlative of good and well, *the best of my students*

bestial *adj* (OF *bestial*, *L* *bestiālis* like a beast, from *bestia* beast; late 14c); **F** bestial/ale, **S** bestial, **I** bestiāle, **G** tierisch; similar to a beast, cruel, *bestial instincts*

bestial *n Scots* for cattle

bestiality *n* (ME *bestialite*, *F* *betialité*, *bestial* + *-ity*; 14c); **F** bestialité f, **S** bestialidad f, **I** bestialità f, **G** Bestialität f, tierisches Wesen n; sexual intercourse between a human and an animal, cruel behaviour, *the bestiality of the war*

bestir *v* (OE *bestyrian*, *be-* + *styrian* to stir, see **stir**; 14c); **F** se démener, s'activer, **S** menearse, **I** darsi da fare, **G** sich bemühen; to stir up, to rouse into activity, *to bestir oneself*, to start doing sth after a period during which one has been doing nothing, *it is time to bestir yourself*

best man *n* (of Scotch origin; early 19c); **F** témoin m, **S** padrino m de boda, **I** testimone m dello spòso, **G** Freund des Bräutigams; the friend who helps a bride-groom at the wedding

bestow *v* (ME *bistowen*, *bi* be- + *stowen* to place, see **stow**; 14c); **F** accorder, donner, **S** conceder, **I** concedere, conferire, **G** schenken, erweisen; to give, to confer (a title, a distinction), *to bestow something upon someone*

best-seller *n* a book which is bought by large numbers of people, *the best-seller of the year*

bet¹ *n* (of uncertain origin, probably an aphetic form of **abet** *n* in the sense of instigation, support; late 16c); **F** pari m, **S** apuesta f, postura f, **I** scommessa f, **G** Wette f; an agreement to risk money in a game, in a competition, etc, *my bet is he will lose the race*

bet² *v* **betting** past tense and past part. **bet** or **betted**; (see the noun; late 16c); **F** parier, faire un pari, **S** apostar, **I** scommettere, **G** wetten; to risk money in a race or game, etc, *I will bet twenty pounds*

beta blocker *n* a drug used for treating blood pressure

betel *n* (Portuguese *betel*, Malayalam *veṭṭila*, Tamil *veṭṭilei*; 16c); **F** bétel m, **S** betel m, **I** bétel m, **G** Betelnuß f; the leaf of a plant, chewed in India as a masticatory, the plant which yields this leaf

betel nut *n* the nut of the Areca Palm

bête noire *n* (French, black-beast; 19c); **F** bête f noire, **S** bestia f negra, **I** bèstia f nera, **G** Schreckgespenst n; a person

who is a particular object of aversion on the part of somebody, an insufferable person

be-tide *v* (ME *bitide-n*, *bi-* *be-* + *tide-n* to happen, see **tide**; 11c); *lit*, see **woe**; **F** malheur à lui, **S** acontecer, **I** accadere a, succedere a, **G** geschehen; to happen (to), *whatever may betide, I will not leave you*

be-token *v* (ME *bitacnien*, *bitok(e)nen*, cf OHG *bizeichanon*, ModG *bezeichnen*, Dutch *beteekenen*, *bi-* *be-* + *tacnian* to signify, from *tacn* token; 12c); **F** pressentir, présager, **S** anunciar, presagiar, **I** fār presagire, **G** bezeichnen, bedeuten; to give evidence of sth, to be an emblem of, to symbolize, to be of omen of sth, *a cloud betokening rain*

be-tray *v* (ME *bi-* *betraien*, *be-* + *traien* tray, OF *traïr*, L *tradēre* to hand over to an enemy or opponent; 13c); **F** trahir, **S** traicionar, **I** tradire, **G** verraten; to handover treacherously to an enemy, to deceive, to disclose (in breach of trust)

be-tray-al *n* (*betray* + *-al*; early 19c); **F** trahison f, **S** traición f, **I** tradimēto m, **G** Verrat m, Treubruch m; the act of betraying

be-troth *v* (ME *bitreuthen*, *bi-* *be-* + ME *treuth* a pledge, truth *n*; early 14c); **F** (se) fiancer, **S** prometer en matrimonio, **I** fidanzare, promettere in matrimonio, **G** (sich) verloben; to engage a woman in a contract of marriage, to promise to marry

be-troth-al *n* (see prec + *-al*; 19c); **F** fiançailles, **S** desposorios m/pl, esponsales m/pl, **I** promessa f di matrimonio, **G** Verlobung f; engagement for marriage

be-trothed *adj/n formal* **F** fiancé/e, **S** prometido/a, **I** fidanzato/a, **G** Verlobte(r); *betrothed to somebody*, having promised to marry somebody

bet-ter¹ *adj* (ME *betre*, *betre*, about 1300 *better*, OE *bettra*, used in Old Germanic languages as comparative of **good**, OHG *bezziro*, ModG *besser*); **F** meilleur/eure, **S** mejor, **I** migliore, **G** besser; the comparative degree of **good**, of superior quality

bet-ter² *adv* **F** mieux, **S** mejor, **I** mēglio, **G** besser; comparative of **well**, *John works better than Louis*

bet-ter³ *v* **F** améliorer, **S** mejorar, **I** migliorare, **G** verbessern; to improve, *to better one own's performances*

bet-ter⁴ *n* **F** mieux, **S** apostador/ora, **I** il mēglio, **G** das Bessere; **the better** is the one that is higher in quality, **to get the better of sb**, to behave better than usually, **so much the better, for the better**, etc

bet-ter-ment *n* (*better* + *-ment*, late 16c); **F** amélioration f, **S** mejoramiento m, **I** miglioramēto m, **G** Verbesserung f; improvement, the fact of becoming better, *the betterment of social relations*

bet-ting *vbl n* (*bet* verb + *-ing*, 1599); **F** les paris m/pl, **S** juego m, el apostar, **I** il fāre scommesse, **G** Wetten *n*; the making of bets, the act of risking money, *the betting is that the challenger will win the race*

betting shop *n* a shop where you can bet on horse races

between *prep/adv* (ME *betwenen*, *betwene*, OE *betwēonum*, *bi-*, *be-* by + *twēonum* two each, cf L *bini* two, a set of two, after 1400 appears as *betwene*); **F** entre, **S** en medio, **I** fra, tra, **G** zwischen; intermediate to two points, *between the door and the window*

bet-wixt *adv/prep old fashioned* (OE *betwixt*, *betweok*, OS *twisc*, OHG *zwis*, Sanskrit *dvīs*, Gr *δῖς* and L *bis*, cf G *zwischen*); **F** entre les deux, **S** en medio, entre, **I** tra, fra, **G** zwischen; between, in a middle position

bevel *n* (see an OF **bevel*, not found, but implied in Modern French *beveau*, *buveau*; 16c); **F** biseau m, **S** cartabón m, bisel m, **I** smussatura f, superficie f smussata, **G** Abschrägung f, Facette f; edge, angle, usually along the edge of a piece of wood or glass

bev-elled *past part./adj*, having a sloping surface

bever-age *n formal* (OF *bevrage*, *buverage*, MedL *biberagium*, from *bibere* to drink; early 14c); **F** boisson f, **S** bebida f, **I** bevānda, bibita, **G** Getränk *n*; liquor for drinking, a drink

bevy *n pl bevvies n informal* (ME *bevey*, *beue*, OF *bevee*, *buvee*, drink, drinking, cf Italian *bevuta* drinking party; 15c); a drink, an alcoholic drink

bevy *n* (group, flock, 15c, later applied to a group of ladies, from A-F *bevé*, of unclear origin); **F** bande f, troupe f, **S** bandada f, grupo m, **I** grūppo m, stórmo m, **G** Schar f, Schwarm m; a large group of women or girls, *a bevy of beauties*

be-wail *v lit* (*be-* + *wail*; early 14c); **F** pleurer, se lamenter sur, **S** lamentar, **I** lamentare, **G** beklagen, betrauern; to express sadness about sth, *he bewailed the loss of his patrimony*

be-ware *v* (*be* verb + *ware* adj, see OE *bewarian* to defend, and *warian* to guard, keep clear of, L *verēri*, to be afraid of, Gr *ὄραω*, from Proto-Germanic; late 11c); **F** se méfier, se garder, **S** tener cuidado, **I** guardarsi da, **G** sich in acht nehmen; used to warn somebody that sth is dangerous, *beware of the dog!*

be-wil-der *v* (*be-* thoroughly + *wilder* to lead one into the wilds, apparently back formation from **wilderness**; late 17c); **F** désorienter, dérouter, **S** desconcertar, **I** confondere, sconcertare, **G** verwirren; perplex, confuse, *he was bewildered by his wife's reaction*

be-wil-der-ing *adj* (*bewilder* + *-ing*; late 18c); confusing, perplexing

be-wil-der-ment *n* (*bewilder* + *-ment*; early 19c); the condition of being bewildered, confusion, perplexity

be-witch *v* (ME *biwicchen*, *bi-* + *wicchen*, OE *wiccian* to enchant, from **witch**; 13c); **F** enchanter, ensorceler, **S** hechizar, **I** incantare, stregare, **G** berücken, betören; to affect by witchcraft, *Catherine bewitched Peter*

be-witch-ing *adj*

be-yond *prep adv* (OE *begeondan*, *bi-*, *be-* by+geond, see **yonder** and **behind**; 14c); **F** au-delà, **S** más allá, más lejos, **I** óltre, al di là di, **G** jenseits, außer; further on than, *beyond the river*, fig. *beyond doubt*, *beyond expectation*

bi- *prefix* (*bi-*, L *bi-* consisting of two, cognate with Gr *δι-*, twice, doubly, having two; found in English early in the 14c); two or twice, *a bimonthly magazine*, *a bilingual community*

bi-an-nual *adj* (*bi* twice + *annual* yearly; 19c); **F** semestriel/elle, **S** semestral, **I** semestrāle, **G** halb-jährlich; appearing twice a year

bias¹ *n* (etym. unknown, see MF *biais* direction oblique, apparently from Greek *ἐπικάρσιος* cross-wise, oblique, through assumed L **(e)bigassius*; 16c); **F** ayant un parti pris pour, **S** sesgo m, propensión f, **I** partito preso, inclinazione f, **G** Hang m, Tendenz f; prejudice, slant, *Hume's conservative bias*

bias² *v* (**F** *biaisier*, see prec; 17c); **F** rendre partial, influencer, **S** influir en, torcer, **I** rendere parziale, influenzare, **G** beeinflussen; to influence attitudes, decisions, *the factors which biased my brother's choice*

biased *adj* prejudiced, influenced

bi-ath-lon *n* (*bi-* + Gr *ἀθλον* contest, after *pentathlon*, etc; 20c); a sport that combines cross-country skiing and rifle shooting; compare **decathlon**, **pentathlon**, etc

bib *n* (ME *bibben* to drink, an adaptation of L *bibere* to drink, see **imbibe**; late 16c); **F** bavette f, **S** babero m, **I** bavaglino m, **G** Lätzchen *n*; a piece of cloth tied around a baby's chin, to protect his clothes while eating

Bible *n* (A-L *biblia*, MedL *biblia*, LL *biblia sacra* holy books, Gr *βιβλίον* book, pl *βιβλία*; 14c); **F** Bible f, **S** Biblia

f, **I** Bibbia f, **G** Bibel f; the holy book of Christianity, and which consists of Old and New Testament

bib-lical *adj* relating to the Bible, *Biblical exegesis*

biblio- combining form (Gr βιβλίο stem of βιβλίον book, in compound forms in Greek like βιβλιογραφία, and in modern formations, eg **bibliophile**; it began to appear with some frequency early in 19c);

bibli-ography *n* (F *bibliographie*, Gr βιβλιογραφία writing of books; 17c); **F** bibliographie f, **S** bibliografia f, **I** bibliografia f, **G** Bibliographie f; a list of books about a particular subject, *the Adam Ferguson bibliography*

bib-liophile *n* (Gr βιβλίον book + φίλος friend; 19c); **F** bibliophile m/f, **S** bibliófilo/a, **I** bibliófilo/a, **G** Bibliophile m/f; one who loves or collects books

bi-cam-eral *adj* (*bi-* prefix + LL *camera* chamber + *-al*, MedL *bicamerātus*; 19c); **F** bicaméral/e, **S** bicameral, **I** bicamerale, **G** Zweikammer; having two legislative chambers, *bicameral system*

bi-carb *n coll abbr* for **bicarbonate**

bi-car-bon-ate hydrogen carbonate

bi-cent-en-ary *n* plural **-ies** (*bi-* prefix + *centenary*, L *centenārius* that is or contains a hundred, from *centēni* a hundred each; 19c); **F** bicentenaire m, **S** bicentenario m, **I** bicentenário m, **G** zweihundertjährig; the year 200 years after an event, *the bicentenary of the Wealth of Nations*

bi-cent-en-ial *adj* in *AmE* noun for **bicentenary** (*bi-* prefix + *centennial*, L **centennium* space of a hundred years, occurring every two hundred years; 19c); **F** bicentenaire m/f, **S** bicentenario/a, **I** bicentenário/a, **G** zweihundertjährig; that occurs every two hundred years, *bicentennial celebrations*

bi-ceps *adj & n* (L *biceps*, *bi-* two + *-ceps* caput head; 17c); **F** biceps m, **S** bíceps m, **I** bicípite m, **G** Bizeps m; a muscle on the front of the upper arm

bicker *v* (OE *becka* pickax, ME *bikeren* to attack, Middle Dutch *bicken* to attack, OHG *bicchan*, MLG *bicken*; early 14c); **F** se quereller, se chamailler, **S** disputar, altercar, **I** bisticciare, litigare, **G** (sich) zanken, quengeln; to quarrel, to argue about something unimportant, *they never stopped bickering*

bickering *vbln* (late 13c; 16c in the modern sense); **F** chamailleries f/pl, **S** riñas f/pl, altercados m/pl, **I** battibécco m, **G** Gezänk n; altercation, a petty arguing about unimportant things

bi-cycle *n* (*bi-* two + *-cycle* wheel, κύκλος circle, on the pattern of earlier **tricycle**; 19c); **F** bicyclette f, **S** bicicleta f, **I** bicicléta f, **G** Fahrrad n; a vehicle with two wheels, two pedals and a handbar, *I go to school by bicycle, to ride a bicycle, he got on his bicycle*

bicycle clip *n* one of the two bands you wear on your trousers when riding a bicycle, to prevent your trousers to be caught in the chain

bicycle lane *n* cycle lane

bi-cyc-list *n old fashioned*, a person who rides a bicycle

bid¹ *v* **bid-ding**, **bid**, **bid** (originally two distinct verbs, ME *bidden* beg, request, and *beden* offer, OE *beódan*; ME *bidden*, OE *biddan* is cognate with OHG *bitten* ask for, ModG *bitten*; ME *beden*, OE *bēodan* is cognate with OHG *biotan* to offer, ModG *bieten*; after 1400-1500 the two forms were totally confused); **F** faire une offre f, **S** licitar, ofrecer, **I** fare un'offerta, **G** bieten; to offer a certain price, to make an offer, especially at an auction, *John will bid £1,000, to bid for votes or support*

bid² *n* (late 18c); **F** enchère f, offre f, **S** oferta f, postura f, **I** offera f, **G** ein (Preis) Angebot machen, Gebot n; an offer by a person or a company to pay an amount of money for sth, especially at an auction, *the highest bid was from a Japanese company, my bid was turned down*

bid³ *v* (**bid-ding**, **bade**, **bidden**, or **bid-ding**, **bid**, **bid**); *literary*, to say good-bye, especially **to bid farewell**, **to bid sb good morning**, etc

bid-dable *adj* (of Scotch origin; 19c); **F** obéissant/e, docile, **S** obediente, sumiso/a, **I** dòcile, obbediente, **G** fügsam, folgsam; obedient, docile, *a biddable man*, said of card-playing, capable of being bid

bid-der *n* (*bid* verb + *-er*; 14c); **F** enchérisseur/euse, **S** postor/ora, **I** offerènte m/f, **G** Bieter m; one who bids, one who offers to pay a certain amount for something that is being sold, *the bidders offered up to one million dollars, the highest bidder*

bid-ding *n* (*bid* verb + *-ing*; 1300); **F** enchères f/pl, mises f/pl, **S** orden f, mandato m, **I** órdine m, offera f/pl (at an auction), **G** Gebot n; the act of offering a price, especially at an auction

bide *v* (OE *bīdan* stay, cognate with Middle Dutch *bīden*, OHG *bītan* to wait, Old Gothic *beidan* to wait; this word has been replaced by **abide**, but is still preserved in North England and Scotland, except in such use as 'bide one's time', to await one's opportunity); **F** attendre le bon moment, **S** esperar la hora propicia, **I** attendere il momento opportuno, **G** den rechten Augenblick) abwarten; to remain in expectation, to wait, **to bide one's time**, to wait the right moment to do something

bidet *n* (F *bidet*, 'petit cheval', as in Rabelais, 1534, apparently from *bider* trotter; origin uncertain); **F** bidet m, **S** bidet m, bidé m, **I** bidet m, bidè m, **G** Bidet n; an oval basin fitted in a bathroom, used for washing the bottom

bi-en-nial *adj* (L *bienni-s* of two years, from *biennium* space of two years, *bi-* two + *annus* year; 17c); **F** biennial/e, **S** bial, **I** biennale, **G** alle zwei Jahre eintretend; lasting for two years, taking place every two years

bier *n* (OE, late 12c as *bere*, West Saxon *bēr*, from the stem to *beran* carry, OHG *bāra* bier, from Proto-Germanic and Indo-European; the modern spelling has developed after 1600 under the influence of French **bière* coffin, Frankish *bera*, OF *biere*); **F** bière f, **S** fèretro m, **I** fèretro m, catafalco m, **G** (Toten)Bahre f; stand for a coffin or corpse, a frame on which a coffin or a corpse is placed

biff *slang* (imitative; late 19c); to strike, to deal a blow, to hit

bi-focals *n* (of American origin, *bi-* + *focal*; late 19c); **F** bifocal, **S** lente m bifocal, **I** occhiali m/pl bifocali, **G** Bifokal-Zweistärkenlinse f; glasses with lenses having two foci, *bi-focal lenses*

bi-fur-cate *vi* (MedL *bifurcātus* two-forked, from L *furca* fork; early 17c); **F** bifurquer, **S** bifurcarse, **I** biforcarsi, **G** sich gabeln; to divide into two branches or forks, *the river bifurcates at one mile from here*

bi-fur-cation *n*

big *adj comparative bigger, superlative biggest* (ME *big*, *bigge*, first known in 13th c. in writers of Northumbria and North Lincolnshire, apparently of Norse origin, cp Norwegian dialect *bugge* strong man); **F** grand/e, gros/se, **S** grande, voluminoso, **I** grànde, gròsso/a, **G** groß, dick; large in size, *a big body*, important, relevant, *a big difference, a big story*, doing a lot, *a big drinker*

big-ness *n* (*big* adj + *-ness*; late 15c); **F** grande taille f, grosseur f, **S** grandor m, volumen m, **I** grossèzza f, **G** Größe f; large size

bigam-ist *n* (*bigamy* + *-ist*; early 17c); **F** bigame m/f, **S** bigamo/a, **I** bigamo/a, **G** Bigamist/in; a person who lives in bigamy

bigamous *adj* (MedL *bigam-us*; 19c); **F** bigame, **S** bigamo, **I** bigamo, **G** bigamistisch; living in bigamy

big-amy *n* (F *bigamie*, *bigame*, MedL *bigamia*, LL *bigamus* twice married, *bi-* two, twice + Gr *-γάμος* marriage; 13c); **F** bigamie f, **S** bigamia f, **I** bigamia f, **G** Bigamie f; the condition of having at the same time two wives or husbands
Big Apple *slang* (from **apple**, used by jazz musicians to mean job; 20c); the city of New York
big band *n* a large group of musicians playing band or dance music; **big band** music was popular in the 1930s and 1940s
big bang *n* the explosion of the original mass of matter from which the universe originated
Big Brother *n* the head of state in George Orwell's novel 1984, hence an omnipotent state authority
big buck(s) *US slang*, big money
big business *n* a type of activity that people spend a lot of money, *English teaching has become a big business*, large companies having a lot of influence, *politics and big business*
big cat *n* any large animal of the cat family, i.e. lions, tigers, etc
big dipper *n* *old fashioned BrE* a small train at an amusement park, *AmE* the plough
big game *n* large wild animals which people hunt for game
big-gie *n* *slang* also **biggy** an important person, sth impressively large or influential
big-headed *adj* *informal*, used to show disapproval, big-headed is a person who thinks very high of himself, who believes that he is important, etc, *a big-headed man*
big-hearted *adj* generous towards other people, kind, *Peter is a big-hearted man*
bight *n* (OE *byht* a bend, see the place-name *Syde biht* in Lancashire, 1278, MLG *bucht*, ModG *Bucht* bay, Middle and Modern Dutch *bocht*); **F** anse f, baie f, **S** ensenada f, cala f, **I** ànsa f, **G** Bucht f; a curve or bent in a coastline, *the Great Australian Bight*, a corner or recess of a bay, a bend in a river, etc
bigot *n* (of uncertain origin, see F *bigot*, a Normand surname, 1155, but apparently from English 'by God', 'in the name of God'; late 16c); **F** sectaire m/f, **S** fanático/a, intolerante, **I** bigòtto/a, fanático/a, intollerante m/f, **G** Fanatiker, blinder Anhänger; a prejudiced person, a person who has strong opinions, especially in matters of religion
big-ot-ed *adj* (*bigot* + *-ed*; 17c); **F** sectaire m/f, **S** fanático/a, intolerante m/f, **I** bigòtto/a, fanático/a, intollerante m/f, **G** bigott, fanatisch; blindly attached to some creed, unreasonably devoted to a party
big-ot-ry *n* (F *bigoterie*, *bigot* + *-ry*; 17c); **F** sectarisme m, **S** fanatismo m, intolerancia f, **I** bigottismo m, intolleranza f, settarismo m, **G** Fanatismus m, Bigotterie f; the condition of a bigot, obstinate attachment to a creed, to a party, etc
the big screen *n* the cinema, when in contrast with the 'little screen', i.e. the TV
big-ticket *adj* costing a lot of money, *a big-ticket item*
big time *n* great success, *finally he made/hit his big time*
big toe *n* the largest toe on the human foot

big top *n* the large tent in which circus performances take place
big wheel *n* *AmE* **Ferris wheel** a large wheel at a park carrying seats at its rim, that takes people around in the air
big-wig *informal*, an important person in an organization
bijou *adj pl bijoux* (F *bijou* 1460, Breton *bizou* finger ring, from *biz* ringer, cf Cornish *bis*, *bes* fingerring; 17c); an object of particular attraction, *a bijou house*, *a bijou language school*
bike¹ *n* (abbreviation of **bicycle**; late 19c); **F** bicyclette f, vélo m, **S** bici f, bicicleta f, **I** biciclétta f, **G** (Fahr)rad n; a bicycle, *I usually go to work by bike*, a motorcycle

bike² *v* (from the noun; early 19c); **F** aller en bicyclette, faire du vélo, **S** ir en bicicleta f, **I** andare in biciclétta f, **G** radeln; to go somewhere on a bicycle or motorcycle
biker *n* a person who rides a motorcycle
bi-kini *n* (name of an atoll in the Marshall islands, where atomic bomb tests were carried out in 1946); a women's two-piece very brief beach garment
bi-la-bial *adj* in linguistics a bilabial sound is one that is made using both lips, e.g. 'p' or 'b'
bi-lat-eral *adj* (*bi-* pref + *lateral*, L *later-*, nomin. *latus* side; 18c); **F** bilatéral/e, **S** bilateral, **I** bilaterale, **G** bilateral, zweiseitig; pertaining to two sides
bil-berry *n* (of Norse origin, but cf Danish *böllebær*, *bölle* + *bær* berry; 16c); **F** myrtille f, **S** arándano m, **I** mirtillo m, **G** Heidel-, Blaubeere f; a small fruit that grows in northern Europe; it has edible blue or black berries
bile *n* (F *bile*, L *bilis* bile, anger; 17c); **F** bile f, **S** bilis f, **I** bile f, **G** Gallenflüssigkeit f; the fluid secreted by the liver
bilge *n* (apparently a corruption of earlier *bulge*, a ship's hull, see OF *boulge* bilge, ModF *bouge*, LL *bulga* leather sack, Gaulish *bulga*; early 16c); **F** carène f, **S** pantoque m, **I** carèna f, **G** Kielraum m, Bilge f; the bottom of a ship's hull
bil-har-zia *n* (ModL, after Theodor Bilharz, who discovered the parasite in 1852); a trematode worm, parasitic in the veins of the pelvic region and urinary organs of human beings
bi-ling-ual *adj* (L *bilinguis* speaking two languages, *bi-* two + *lingua* language; 19c); **F** bilingue, **S** bilingüe, **I** bilingue, **G** zweisprachig; speaking two languages
bil-ious *adj* (MF *bilieux*, L *biliōsus* full of bile, L *bilis*, see **bile**; 16c); **F** bilieux/euse, colérique, **S** bilioso/a, **I** biliōso/a, **G** gallig, gereizt; pertaining to, or having to do with bile
bilk *v* (etym. unclear, probably an alteration of the verb **balk**; 17c); **F** tromper, **S** defraudar, estafar, **I** truffare, ingannare, **G** betrügen; to elude, to cheat, to defraud, *esp* of money, *he was bilked out of £10,000*
bill¹ *n* (AL *billa*, AF *bille* schedule, account, LL *billa*. In classical L *bullā* was 'a locket, containing an amulet hung round the neck of children', whence, in MedL, 'a seal', 'a document furnished with a seal', eg a Papal bull, by extension any official or formal document; in this sense in English *bullā* became *billa*, *bille*; 14c); **F** facture f, addition f, billet m de banque, projet m de loi, affiche f, bec m (d'oiseau), **S** cuenta f, factura f, proyecto m de ley, cartel m, pico m (de ave), **I** fattura f, cònto m, diségno m (o progétto) di légge, manifèsto m, cartellone m (pubblicitario), bécco (m) di un uccello, **G** Tratte f, Rechnung f, (Gesetzes)Vorlage f, Tafel f, Schnabel m; a written document which shows how much you owe sb for services or goods, *the telephone bill*, *the restaurant bill*, a new law submitted to Parliament, *the Commons approved the Education Bill*, *hist the Bill of Rights*, a printed notice advertising an event, *to post bills*, the curved outer part of a bird's mouth, *the eagle's bill*; **double bill**, cinema or theater where you can see two performances, one after the other; **topping the bill**, to be the most important performer, *an actor who topped the bill*, **to fill/fit the bill**, to be suitable for sth, *a journey to Florence would fit the bill*
bill² *v* (from the noun; 19c); **F** envoyer une facture à, **S** pasar a uno la factura de algo, **I** mandare (o spedire) il cònto a, **G** jemandem etwas in Rechnung stellen; to send somebody a bill for something, *we bill monthly our customers*
bill-board *n* (*bill* + *board*; 19c); **F** panneau m d'affichage, **S** cartelera f, valla f publicitaria, **I** tabellone m pubblicitario, **G** Reklametafel f; a board to which advertisements, posters, etc., are posted
bil-let¹ *n* (ME & AF *billette* a letter or note, AL *billetta*, dimin. of *billa*, *bille*, bill, MedL *bullā*; 14c); **F** billet m de

logement, **S** alojamiento m, **I** allòggio m, **quartière** m (militaire), **G** Quartierzettel m; a place, in a private house, where soldiers live temporarily, a note assigning quarters to soldiers, a written order for soldier's food and lodging, *the cavalry billets were in a row of farms*

bil·let² *v* (from the noun; late 16c); **F** cantonner des troupes dans une ville, **S** alojar, **I** alloggiare, **acquartierare**, **G** einquartieren; to put soldiers in a private house, to live there temporarily, *the cavalry was billeted outside the town*

bil·let *n* (OF *billete*, diminutive of *bille* trunk of a tree, **MedL** *billa* and *billus* branch, trunk of a tree, **ME** *bylet*, apparently of Celtic origin; 14c); **F** bille f, **billette** f, **S** tronco m, **cepo** m, **I** ciocco m, **billétta** f, **G** Holzscheid n; a piece of wood cut for firewood, a small bar of metal, iron, etc

bill·fold *n* **AmE** a wallet

bill·hook *n* (*bill* n + *hook* n; early 17c); **F** serpe f, **croissant** m, **S** podadera f, **podón** m, **I** róncola f, **falcétto** m, **G** Hippe f; a tool with a blade on top of a pole, used for cutting off branches of trees

bil·liards *n* (**MF** *billard*, **OF** *billart* a stick with curved end, *dim* of *bille* piece of wood, see *billet*, in English made plural as in other games, like **draughts**, **skittles**, **bowls**, etc; late 16c); **F** billard m, **S** billar m, **I** biliardo m, **G** Billard(spiel) n, **G**; a game played with ivory balls on a rectangular cloth-covered table

bill·ing *vbl sb* (*bill* verb + *-ing*; late 19c); the importance of a performer in a play, especially as shown by prominence of the name on the poster advertising the event, *top/star billing*, the sending out of bills to customers, *the total billing was £1000*

bill·ion *n* (**F** *billion*, formed in 16th century to denote the second power of a million, *bi-* two + *million*, first occurring in Locke's *Human Understanding*, 1690); **F** billion m, **milliard** m, **S** billón m, **mil millones** m/pl, **I** miliardo m, **G** Milliarde f; a thousand millions

bil·lion·aire *n* (after **millionaire**; 19c); **F** milliardaire m/f, **S** millardario/a, **I** miliardario/a, **G** Milliardär m; one who possesses a property worth one billion or more

bill of exchange *n* (see **bill**); a signed document ordering the payment of a sum of money to somebody on a fixed date

bill of lading *n* a list of the goods that a ship etc is carrying

Bill of Rights *n* a written statement of the political rights of the citizen of a country, such as the Bill of Rights of 1689

bill of sale *n* a document stating that something has been sold to somebody else

bil·low¹ *n* (cf **ON** *bylgia* billow, **Danish** *bølge*, **Sw** *bölja*, **MHG** *bulge*, **Middle Dutch** *bulge* bubble, **ModG** *Bulge* leather bag; 16c); **F** lame f (de mer), **S** oleada f, **I** ondàta f, **cavallóne** m, **maróso** m, **G** Woge f, **Nebel**(etc)**Schwaden** m; *literary* a large wave of the sea, produced by a high wind, a moving cloud of something, such as smoke or cloth, *billows of smoke in the sky*

bil·low² *v* (from the noun; 16c); **F** se soulever en vagues, **ondoyer**, **S** ondular, **ondear**, **I** ondeggiare, **levàrsi** a ondàte, **G** wogen; to surge, swell, undulate, *a sail billowing in the breeze*

billy *n pl* **billies**, also **billycan** (probably from **Scottish** *billypot*, and *billy* a comrade, a companion; 19c); **F** bouilloire f, **S** cazo m, **I** bollitore m, **G** Kochtopf m; a metal cooking pot used for cooking when you are camping

billy club *n* **AmE** a short wooden stick used as a weapon by police officers

billy goat *n* **F** bouc m, **S** macho m **cabrio**, **I** bécco m, **G** Ziegenbock m; a male goat

bimbo *n* *informal* (It *bambino*, little child, baby; 20c); an insulting word for a young woman, sexually attractive but not intelligent, *he used to pick up bimbos at the pub*

bi·month·ly *adj/adv* (*bi-* + *monthly*; 19c); **F** bimestriel/elle, tous les deux mois, **S** bimestral/e, bimestralmente, **I** bimestrale, **G** zweimonatlich, alle zwei Monate; occurring every two months, *a bi-monthly magazine, the magazine appears bimonthly*

bin¹ *n* (**OE** *binn(e)* manger, cf **L** *benna*, in **Festus**, 2nd century, a Gaulish word meaning cart with a basket top, **It** *benna* dung-cart, **F** *benne* basket-cart, **ModG** *Benne*, **Dutch** *benne*, *ben* large basket; 16c); **F** coffre m, **poubelle** f, **S** hucha f, **arcón** m, **papelera** f, **I** recipiente m, **contenitore** m, **G** (großer)Behälter, **Kasten** m; a container for putting rubbish in, *I will throw these papers in the bin*; a **dustbin** is a bin which is kept outside

bin² *v* (from the noun; 19c); *informal* **F** flanquer à la pubelle, **S** poner en una caja, **I** conservare qualcosa in un recipiente m o contenitore m, **gettare** qualcosa nel cestino m, **G** in der Abfalltonne deponieren; to put or store something in a bin, *to bin the bread*, to throw something away, *please, bin anything unnecessary!*

bin·ary *adj & n* (**LL** *binārius*, from **L** *bini* two together, related to *bis* twice, *duo* two; 14c); **F** binaire, **S** binario/a, **I** binario/a, **G** binär, aus zwei Einheiten bestehend; compounded of two, dual; the **binary system** is used in computers, and combines the numbers 0 and 1

bind¹ *v* **bound bound** (**OE** *bindan*, **Old Icelandic** *binda*, **OHG** *bintan*, **Gothic** *bindan*, **ModG** *binden*, related to **band** fasten); **F** attacher, **lier**, **S** liar, **obligar**, **adherirse**, **I** attaccare, **legare**, **G** binden, verbinden, vereinigen; to fasten, to tie up, *to bind something with a string, to bind a book*

bind² *n* *informal* (see the verb; 1000); a difficult situation, *her mother's health is a real bind for her*, to be bound to sth, *I am bound to secrecy*; to be **in a bind**, to be in a situation which prevents you from doing what you would like to do

bind·er *n* (*bind* verb + *-er*; 1000); **F** relieur/-euse, **S** encuadernador/ora, **cartera** f, **I** rilegatore/trice, **macchina** f **cucitrice**, **G** (Buch)Binder/in, **Aktendeckel** m, **Bindemittel** n; one who binds books, a substance that makes things stick together, *a plastic binder*

bind·ing¹ *adj* past part., that binds together, obligatory, coercive, *a binding agreement*

bind·ing² *vbl n* (*bind* verb + *-ing*; 13c); the cover that holds the pages of a book together, a cord that is wound around something

bind·weed *n* (*bind* verb + *weed*; 16c); **F** liseron m, **S** convólvulo m, **I** convólulo m, **G** Winde f; a climbing plant of the genus *convolvulus*, that winds itself around other plants

binge¹ *n* *informal* (a special use of dialectal *binge* to soak (a wooden vessel), 1854, by extension 'to drink heavily', in allusion to soaking up alcohol', **Barnhart**; according to **OED** *dialectal binge* 'appears to be a different word', and the origin of **binge** is 'with a feeling for the initial sound of *bow*, *bend*, *beck*, and the closing sound of *cringe*'); **F** bombe f, **S** borrachera f, **I** bicchierata f, **bagórdo** m, **G** Freßgelage f; a spree of drinking, eating, etc

binge² *v* (see the noun; 19c); to do too much of sth, as eating and drinking

bingo *n* (of unclear origin); a slang term for *brandy*, 1861, a modern development of *lotto*, 1929

bin·liner *n* **BrE** a plastic bag placed inside a container to hold waste

bin·man *n* *colloquial* **BrE** dustman

bin·ocu·lar *adj* (**L** *bini* two each + *ocūli* eyes + *-ar*, **F** *binoculaire*; 1723); **F** binoculaire, **S** binocular, **I** binoculare, **G** binokular, mit beiden Augen; performed by both eyes, suitable for both eyes, *binocular vision*

bin-oculars *n* (see prec.; 19c); **F** jumelles f/pl, **S** telescopio m, microscopio m para ambos ojos, **I** binòcolo m, **G** Fernglas n; a pair of tubes with glass to look through, that make objects appear as nearer and more distinct, *to look to the moon through binoculars*

bi-nomial¹ *n* (ML *binōmius* having two names, **F** *binôme*, alteration of **L** *binominis*, *bi-* two+nomen name; 16c); **F** binôme m, **S** binomio/a, **I** binòmio/a, **G** Binom n; a mathematical expression consisting of two terms

bi-nomial² *adj* (from the noun; 16c); **F** binôme, **S** de dos términos, **I** binòmio/a, **G** binomisch, aus zwei Namen bestehend; *math* consisting of two terms, *the binomial theorem*

bio- a combining form meaning 'life', entered English through New Latin *-bio* as a borrowing of Greek *βίος*, *βίος* life, cognate with **L** *vivus* living

bio-chemist *n* (*bio-* + *chemist*; late 19c); one who works in biochemistry

bio-chem-istry *n* (*bio-* + *chemistry*; late 19c); **F** biochimie f, **S** bioquímica f, **I** biochimica f, **G** Biochemie f; the science dealing with the substances present in the living organisms, *biological chemistry*

bio-degrad-able *adj* **F** biodegradable, **S** biodegradable, **I** biodegradabile, **G** (biologisch) abbaubar; chemicals or materials that are naturally changed into substances that do not damage the environment, *biodegradable liquids*

bio-di-versity *n* the variety of biological life, i.e. plants and animals, in a particular environment

biograph-er *n* (see *biography* + *-er*, replacing earlier 'biographist'; early 18c); **F** biographe m/f, **S** biògrafo/a, **I** biògrafo/a, **G** Biograph; a writer of biographies, *James Boswell, Dr Johnson's biographer*

biography *n* (late **Gr** *βιογραφία*, from *βίος* life + *γραφία* writing, **MedL** *biographus*; late 17c); **F** biographie f, **S** biografía f, **I** biografia f, **G** Biographie f; an account of someone's life, written by someone else, *Dr Johnson's biography*

bio-logic-al *adj* relating to biology

biological clock *n* a system in the body that controls when certain activities, like sleeping, eating, etc, take place, *insomnia disrupts her biological clock*

biological diversity, *n*, see *biodiversity*

biological warfare *n* **F** guerre f bactériologique, **S** guerra f biològica, **I** guerra f batteriològica, **G** Bakterienkrieg m; the use of biological bacteria as weapons in war

biolo-gist *n* (*biology* + *-ist*, early 19c); **F** biologiste m/f, **S** biòlogo/a, **I** biòlogo/a, **G** Biologe m; a scientist who studies biology

biology *n* (from German *Biologie*, **Gr** *βίος* life + *-λογία* discoursing; 19c); **F** biologie f, **S** biologia f, **I** biologia f, **G** Biologie f; the science of living things, *molecular biology*

bio-mass *n* (*bio-* + *mass*; 20c); the quantity of animals and plants in a particular area

bi-onic *adj* (**Gr** *βίος* life + *-onic*, after *electronic* *adj*; early 20c); pertaining to bionics

bi-onics *n* (*bio-* + *electronics*; 20c); **F** bionique f, **S** electrònica f biològica, **I** biònica f, **G** Bionik; the study of systems which function in the manner of living systems

bio-physics *n* (*bio-* + *physics*; late 19c); the physics of the living organisms

bio-pic *n* *informal AmE* (*biographical* *adj* + *pic*; 20c); a film biography based on the events of someone's life

bi-opsy *n* (**F** *biopsie*, **Gr** *βίος* life + *ὄψις* visual impression; late 19c); **F** biopsie f, **S** biopsia f, **I** biopsia f, **G** Biopsie f; examination of tissues removed by a living body

bio-sphere *n* (**G** *Biosphäre*, *bio* + *sphere*; 19c); **F** biosphère f, **S** biosfera f, **I** biosfèra f, **G** Biosphäre n; the regions of the earth and atmosphere that are occupied by living organisms

bio-tech-nol-ogy *n* (*bio* + *technology*; 20c); **F** biotechnologie f, **S** biotecnologia f, **I** biotecnologia f, **G** Biotechnologie f; the use of cells and bacteria in industrial processes, for example in energy production, manufacture of drugs, etc

bi-par-tisan *adj* composed of members of the two parties

biped *adj* & *n* (**L** *bip-ēdem*, *bi-* two + *pedem* foot; 17c); **F** bipède m, **S** bipedo m, **I** bipede m, **G** Zweifüßler m; an animal with two legs, for example hen or birds

bi-plane *n* **F** biplan m, **S** biplano m, **I** biplano m, **G** Zweidecker m; an old type of plane with two sets of wings, one above the other

birch¹ *n* Northern and Scottish **birk** (**OE** *birce*, cf **OS** *birka*, **OHG** *birca*, Middle Dutch *berke*, Modern Dutch *berk*, **ModG** *Birke*, a word of Indo-European origin; late 14c as *birch*); **F** bouleau m, verge f, **S** abedul m, palo m, **I** betùlla f, vérga f di betùlla, **G** Birke f, Birkenholz n, (Birken)rute f; a genus of forest tree, genus *Betula*, typical of northern regions, whose wood is valued for furniture making

birch² *v* (from the noun; early 19c); **F** donner le fouet à, fouetter, **S** castigar con el palo m, **I** fustigare, **G** mit der Rute züchtigen; to punish with a birch rod

bird *n* (**ME** *byrd*, *bryd*, **OE** *brid*; there is no corresponding form in any of the Germanic languages; 14c as *bird*); **F** oiseau m, **S** ave f, **I** uccello m, **G** Vogel m; an animal with feathers and wings, usually able to fly, *sea birds*, *a flock of birds*

bird-brain *n* *informal* **F** (avoir) une cervelle de moineau, **S** casquivano/a, **I** cervèllo m di gallina, **G** Spatzen(ge)hirn; a stupid or silly person; **bird-brained** *adj*

bird-cage *n* (*cage* + *bird*; late 14c); **F** cage f d'oiseau, **S** jaula f de pájaro, pajarera f, **I** gabbia f per gli uccelli, **G** Vogelbauer n; a cage in which birds are kept

bird-die *n* *coll* (*bird* noun + *-ie*, *-y*; late 18c); a little bird

bird of paradise *n* a brightly coloured bird found in New Guinea

bird of passage *n* a bird that flies from a country to another, according to the seasons

bird of prey *n* a bird that kills other birds or little animals for food

bird-song *n* the musical noises made by a bird or birds

bird-watch-er *n* somebody who observes birds in their natural environment, generally for scientific purposes

Biro *n* (after the name of László Biró, the Hungarian inventor; 20c); a particular make of ball-point pen

birth *n* (**ME** *burthe*, *burde*, *birde*, **OS** *byrth*, **OE** *gebyrd* birth, **OHG** *giburt*; early 14c); **F** naissance f, genèse f, **S** nacimiento m, **I** nascita f, **G** Geburt f; the act of bringing forth a new individual from his mother's body, *Joan gave birth to two twins*, the fact of being born in a particular place, *he is an Italian by birth*

birth certificate *n* an official document certifying where and when you were born

birth control *n* (*birth* + *control*; 20c); the control of the number of births, using contraceptives, *pill is an efficient method of birth control*

birth-day *n* (*birth* + *day*; late 16c); **F** anniversaire m, **S** cumpleaños m, aniversario m, **I** compleanno m, **G** Geburtstag m; the day, recurring every year, in which you were born, *my 65th birthday*

birth-ing *n* **F** accouchement, **S** parto m, **I** parto m, **G** Geburt f; the act of giving birth to a baby

birth-mark *n* a mark that is present in the skin at birth, a naevus

birth mother *n* the woman who gives birth to a child, as distinct from an adoptive mother

birth-place *n* the place where you were born

birth rate *n* the number of births for unit of 1000 individuals of population, *a low birth rate*

birth-right *n* **F** droit *m* (acquis à la naissance), **S** derechos *m/pl* de nacimiento, **I** diritto *m* di nascita *f*, **G** Geburtsrecht *n*; a right you should have because of the place and family you were born in, *freedom is the birth-right of any European born citizen*

bis-cuit *n* (ME *besquite*, from OF *bescuit* 'twice-cooked', L *bis* twice + OF *cuire*, L *coquere* to cook; 14c); **F** biscuit *m*, **S** galleta *f*, **I** biscotto, **G** Biskuit *n*, Keks *m*; a small dry sweet, round or rectangular in shape, *we had a cup of tea and some biscuits*

bi-sect *v* (L *bi-* two + *sectus*, past part. of *secare* to cut; 17c); **F** couper en deux parties égales, **S** bisecar, **I** dividere in due parti uguali, **G** in zwei Teile zerschneiden; to cut in two, divide in two parts

bi-sex-ual¹ *adj* (*bi-* + *sexual*, L *sexus* gender; 19c); **F** bisexuel/elle, **S** bisexual, **I** bisessuale, **G** bisexuell; of two sexes, sexually attracted to both men and women; *biology*, having both male and female sexual organs

bi-sex-ual² *n* (*bi* + *sexual*, L *sexus*; early 19c); a person who is bisexual, compare **heterosexual**, **homosexual**

bishop *n* (OE *biscop*, *bisceop*, OS *biskop*, Middle Dutch *bisscop*, LL *episcopus*, Gr *ἐπίσκοπος* overlooker, overseer, *ἐπί* on + *-σκοπός* watcher); **F** évêque *m*, **S** obispo/a, **I** véscovo *m*, **G** Bischof *m*; a superintendent or overseer in Christian Church, *the Bishop of St Asaph*

bish-op-ric *n* (OE *bisceoprice*, *bisceop* + *rice* realm, dominion); **F** évêché *m*, **S** obispado *m*, **I** vescovado *m*, **G** Diözese *f*, Bistum *n*; the district for which a bishop is responsible, *the bishopric of Edinburgh*, the condition of being a bishop, *a bishopric was conferred upon him*

bison *n* (F *bison*, L *bison*, cf OHG *wisant*, *wisunt*, ModG *Wisent*; late 14c); **F** bison *m*, **S** bisónte *m*, **I** bisónte *m*, **G** European Wisent *m*, American Bison *m*; a large hoofed animal of the cow family covered with long hair, found especially in north America

bis-tro *n* (F *bistro*, of uncertain origin, probably related to *bistouille* mauvais alcohol; 20c); **F** bistro *m*, bistrot *m*, **S** bistrot *m*, **I** bistrò *m*, bistrot *m*, **G** Bistro *n*; a small wine shop, a small restaurant

bit *n* (OE *bite* morsel, ME *bit*, *bītan* to bite, cognate with OF *bīta*, OHG *bizz*, ModG *Bissen* a bite); **F** morceau *m*, un petit peu, (*ordinateur*) bit, mors *m* (*d'une bride*), foret *m*, **S** trozo *m*, porción *f*, bit *m*, unidad *f* de información, freno *m*, bocado *m*, broca *f*, barrena *f*, **I** un p' di, un pezzétto *m*, bit *m*, mórso *m*, frèno *m*, pùnta *f*, trivèlla *f*, **G** Stückchen *n*, ein bißchen, ein wenig, Bit *n*, Gebiß *n*, Holzbohrer *m*, Lochbohrer *m*; a small piece, a fragment, a part of something, *a bit of bread*, *computing* the smallest unit of information used by a computer, (*horses*) the metal bar that is put in the horse's mouth for the rider to control it, (*tool*) a tool for drilling

bitch *n* (OE *biece*, ME *bicche*, cognate with Old Icelandic *bikkja* female dog, & Old Danish *bikke*); **F** chienne *f*, **S** perra *f*, mujer *f* de mal genio, **I** càgna *f*, megèra *f*, **G** Hündin *f*, Schlampe *f*; the female of the dog, a lewd or sensual woman

bitchy *adj* *informal* unkind, unpleasant about other people, *bitchy words*, *she is often bitchy in her remarks*

bite¹ *v* **bit bitten** (OE *bītān*, ME *biten*, cognate with OS *bītan* to bite, Old Frisian *bīta*, Middle Dutch *bīten*, ModG *beissen*, cognate with L *findere* to cleave, split); **F** mordre, donner un coup de dents à, **S** morder, **I** mōrdere, **G** beißen; to use your teeth to cut through something, *he was biting into a French baguette*, *a mosquito bit my arm*, *the fish bites the hook*, abstract, *the cold wind bites my face*

bite² *n* (from the verb; 11c); **F** coup *m* de dent, touche *f*, morceau *m*, **S** mordedura *f*, mordisco *m*, **I** mórso *m*, **G**

Beißen *n*, Biß *m*; the act of biting something with your teeth, *take a bite of this bread*, *the bite of the mosquito*, abstract, *the bite of the recession*

bite-sized *adj* small enough to put into your mouth to eat in a bite, *bite-sized pieces of bread*

bit-ing *adj* **F** âpre, perçant/e, **S** penetrante, mordaz, **I** pungente, **G** beißend, scharf; that bites, abstract *biting remarks*, *biting cold*

bit-map *n* a computer image stored with a fixed number of bits

bit part *n* a small part in a film

bit-ten *past part.* of **bite**

bit-ter *adj* (OE *biter*, *bitre*, cognate with OS & OHG *bittar* bitter, Old Icelandic *bitre*, from Proto-Germanic); **F** amer/ère, aigre, **S** amargo/a, penetrante, **I** amàro/a, pungente, àspro/a, **G** bitter, verärgert; in the sense of angry, *bitter remarks*, referring to people, *John's bitter disappointment about his unsuccessful performances*, feeling of unhappiness, *bitter tears*, of food, *bitter coffee*, of weather, *bitter wind*

bitters *n* a bitter liquid made from plants that is added to alcoholic drinks to give flavour, *a dash of bitters was added to our whisky*

bitter lemon *n* a fizzy non-alcoholic drink that tastes of lemon and is grey-green in colour

bit-ter-ly *adv* showing bitterness or anger, *he was bitterly disappointed*

bitters *n pl* (from *bitter* *n*; early 18c); a liquid made from bitter herbs, used to help digestion

bitter-sweet *adj* **F** aigre-doux/ce, doux-amer/ère, **S** agridulce, **I** àgro-dólce, dolceamàro, **G** bitter-süß, halb-bitter; bitter and sweet at the same time, *a bitter-sweet love story*

bit-tern *n* (AL *butorius*, OF *butor*, L *butio* bittern + *taurus* bull, so called from its booming voice; in popular English it is called bull; early 16c); **F** butor *m*, **S** avetoro *m*, **I** tarabùso *m*, **G** Rohrdommel *f*; a bird of the heron family, that lives on wet ground, and is typical of Europe and Asia

bitterness *n* (OE *biternys*, from *biter* bitter + *-ness*; 9 c); **F** amertume *f*, àpreté *f*, aigreur *f*, **S** amargor *m*, amargura *f*, **I** asprèzza *f*, sapóre *m* amàro, **G** Bitterkeit *f*; the condition of being bitter, *the bitterness of his remarks*, *of his disappointment*, *of the coffee*, *of the wind*

bitty *adj* *informal* having many small parts that are not connected to each other, *a bitty novel*

bitu-men *n* (L *bitūmen* asphalt; 15c); **F** bitume *m*, **S** betún *m*, **I** bitūme *m*, asfàlto *m*, **G** Bitumen *n*, Asphalt *m*; a black substance used to surface roads and roofs

bi-tu-min-ous *adj* (F *bitumineux*, L *bituminosus*, see *-ous*; early 17c); having the qualities of bitumen, containing bitumen

bi-valve *adj/n* (L *bi-* + *valve*, L *valvæ* a double or folding-door; 17c); **F** mollusc bivalve *m*, **S** molusco *m* bivalvo, **I** mollusco *m* bivàlve, **G** zweischalige Muskel *f*; an animal having a shell in two valves or parts, *eg* the oyster

biv-ouac *n* (F *bivouac*, *bivac*, cf Swiss-German *beiwacht*, denoting the patrol of citizens *-Schaarwache*, adding *beigegeben-* to assist the ordinary town watch by night, see also Dutch *bijwacht*; 17c); **F** bivouac *m*, **S** vivaque *m*, vivac *m*, **I** bivàcco *m*, **G** Biwak *n*; a temporary shelter for troops or for people climbing a mountain

bi-zarre *adj* & *sb* (F *bizarre*, apparently from French dialect of Berry *bigearrer* to quarrel, see root *bi-* twice; 17c); **F** bizarre, **S** original, extravagante, **I** bizzàro/a, stravagante, **G** bizarr; unusual, strange, *a bizarre man*

blab¹ *n* (etymology obscure; occurs in Chaucer, c. 1374 as *blabbe* chatterer, cf Old Dutch *labben* to chatter, ON *blabbra*, G *plappern*); **F** bavard/e, jaseur/euse, **S** hablador/ora, **I**

chiacchiera f, pettegolézzo m, **G** Schwätzer/in; an open-mouthed person, a loose talk or chatter, a divulging of secrets
blab² *v* (from the noun; early 16c); **F** bavarder, **S** divulgar, chismear, **I** ciarlàre, **G** ausplaudern, schwatzen; to talk as a blab

blab-ber *n* (*blab* + *-er*; 16c); **F** bavard/e, jaseur/euse, **S** hablador/a, chismoso/a, **I** chiacchierone m, **G** Schwätzer/in; one who blabs, a person who talks meaninglessly

black¹ *adj* (OE *blæc*, cognate with OHG *blach*, Old Icelandic *blakkr*, from Proto-Germanic **blak-*, cognate with Greek *φλόξ* flame of fire; 12c as *blac*); **F** noir/e, **S** negro/a, **I** néro/a, scüro/a, **G** schwarz, dunkel; a dark colour, *the black colour of skin, the Black community, black shoes, black coffee*, fig. *to be in black despair, a black look*

black² *n/v* (see *adj*; early 13c); the dark colour; **to be in the black**, to have in your bank-account more money than you owe

black³ *v* to make something black, *BrE* to refuse to deal with somebody for political reasons, to boycott, *all the scheduled meetings have been blacked*

black arts *n* **F** magie noire, **S** magia f negra, **I** magia f nera, **G** Schwarze Magie f; magic arts used for evil purposes

black-ball *v* to vote against someone, to prevent him from joining a club

black belt *n* a belt that can be earned in sport, like the judo and karate, the person who has earned such a belt

black-berry *n* (1000); **F** mûre f, **S** mora f, zarzamora f, (*plant*) zarza f, **I** mòra f, **G** Brombeere f; a small dark raspberry-like fruit that grows on the prickly shrub of the rose family

black-berry-ing *n* the act of picking blackberries, *to go blackberrying*

black-bird *n* (late 15c); **F** merle m, **S** mirlo m, **I** mèrlo/a, **G** Amsel f; a European bird, the male being black with a yellow beak, the female being brown

black-board (*black* + *board*; 19c); *n* **F** tableau m noir, **S** pizarra f, encerado m, **I** lavagna f, **G** Tafel f; a board either black or white that is written on with chalk or markers, used especially in schools

black box *n* **F** boîte f noire, **S** caja f negra, **I** scàtola f néra, **G** Flugschreiber m; a small box in a plane that records all the details of the flight

black-currant *n* (early 17c); **F** cassis m, **S** casis m, grosella f negra, **I** ribes m néro, **G** Johannisbeere f; a small black berry that grows in bunches on a bush, called **blackcurrant bush**, and is used for making jam, etc, *blackcurrant jam*

black economy *n* business activity not recorded, in order to avoid paying taxes

black-en *v* (ME *blakne(n)*, *black* *adj* + *-en*; 1300); **F** noircir, devenir noir, **S** ennegrecer, **I** annerire, diventàre néro, **G** schwärzen; to become black, to make sth black, *to blacken somebody's reputation*

black eye *n* an area of dark skin that forms around an eye when one is hit, for example when receiving a punch

black-guard *n* *old fashioned* a man who has no sense of what is right and wrong, an immoral man

black-head *n* a small plug of fatty matter blocking the duct of a pore on the skin

black-hole *n* (18c; *astr* 20c); a region in space whose gravity attracts everything near it, even light, fig. *the endeavour turned to be a financial black hole*

black ice *n* a thin layer of ice on the surface of a road

black-jack *n* a card game played for money, *AmE* a thick weapon used for hitting people, a pontoon or any floating platform

black-leg *n* *BrE* a person who continues to work when other people he works with are on strike

black-list¹ *n* (*black* + *list*, early 17c); **F** liste f noire, **S** lista f negra, **I** lista f nêra, **G** schwarze Liste f; a list of people, countries, etc, who are put in a list to be boycotted or punished, *a blacklist of dictatorial regimes*

black-list² *v* (see the noun); **F** inscrire ou mettre sur une liste noire, **S** estar en la lista f negra, **I** mèttere nella lista f néra, **G** j-n auf die schwarze Liste setzen; to put somebody on a blacklist, *clients who do not pay on time are blacklisted by our company*

black magic *n* **F** magie f noire, **S** magia f negra, **I** magia f néra, **G** Schwarze Magie f; a type of magic in which people communicate with evil spirits

black-mail¹ *n* (from *black* a rent, *hist* a tribute formerly exacted from farmers in Scotland by freebooting chiefs; 16c); **F** chantage m, **S** chantaje m, **I** ricàtto m, **G** Erpressung f; the act of extorting money from someone by threatening to reveal his secrets or faults

black-mail² *v* (from the noun; late 19c); **F** soumettre à un chantage, **S** chantajear, hacer victima de un chantaje, **I** ricattàre, **G** erpressen; to extort money from someone by threatening them to reveal their secrets or faults

black-mail-er *n* **F** maître m chanteur, **S** chantajista m/f, **I** ricattatòre/trice, **G** Erpresser m; one who commits blackmail

Black Maria *n* *old fashioned* **F** voiture f cellulaire, **S** coche m celular, furgón m celular, **I** furgóne m cellulare, **G** 'Grüne Minna', (Polizei)Gefangenenwagen m; a police vehicle used to carry prisoners

black mark *n* a mark that affects somebody's reputation, *a black mark against my reputation*

black market *n* (*black* + *market*; early 20c); **F** marché m noir, **S** mercado m negro, **I** mercàto m néro, borsanêra f, **G** Schwarzmarkt m; a system in which goods are bought and sold illegally, *to buy cigarettes on the black market, black market goods*

black marketeer *n* **F** trafiquant du marché noir, **S** especulador m de mercado negro, **I** borsanerista m/f, **G** Schwarzhändler/in; one who sells goods on the black market

Black Muslim *n* a member of a group of people who, in the US, follow the religion of Islam

black-out *n* (from phrasal *to black out*; early 20c); a temporary lack of electricity supply, *the eastern part of the US from Canada to Washington suffered a sudden blackout*, fig., *at the exams of maths my memory suffered a blackout*, on the information, *the dictatorial regime imposed a news blackout*

black pudding *n* a thick dark sausage made from animal blood

black sheep *n* *derogatory* **F** brebis f galeuse, **S** oveja f negra, **I** pècora f néra, **G** schwarzes Schaf *n*; a person who is different from the other persons of the family, *John is the black sheep of his family*

black-smith *n* (a smith who works with iron or black metal, as distinct from one who works on white metal, *eg* tin; 13c in as a surname) **F** forgeron m, maréchal-ferrant m, **S** herrero m, **I** maniscàlco m, fàbbro m ferràio, **G** (Grob-, Huf)Schmied; a person who repairs things made of iron, such as horseshoes

black spot *n* *BrE* a stretch of road where accidents occur frequently, *the motorway is an accident blackspot*, an area where occur more problems than elsewhere, *an unemployment blackspot*

black-thorn *n* (*black* + *thorn*; late 14c); **F** prunier m épineux, épine f noire, **S** endrino m, **I** prugno m, susino m, **G** Schwarzdorn m; a bush with thorns, small white flowers and a dark fruit

black tie *n* **F** cravate f noire, **S** batin m, **I** cravàtta f néra, **G** schwarze Fliege f, Smoking m; a black bow-tie worn with a dinner jacket, especially on a formal occasion, *a black-tie occasion*

black-top *n* a black material used for surfacing roads, tarmac

black widow *n* a very poisonous American spider, black with red marks

blad-der *n* (OE *blædre*, Old Icelandic *bláðhra* bladder, MLG *blāder*, *bladder*, Middle Dutch *blāder(e)*, MHG *blāt(t)ere*, ModG *Blatter*); **F** vessie *f*, vésicule *f*, **S** vejiga *f*, **I** vescica *f*, **G** Harnblase *f*, Vesica *f*; a membraneous bag in the animal body, the receptacle for urine

blade *n* (OE *blæd*, OS *blad*, OHG and MHG *blat* leaf, Old Icelandic *bladh*, cognate with L *folium* leaf, *flos* flower, Gr *φύλλον* leaf, MedL *bladum* corn, grain, OF *bled* corn, wheat *F blé*); **F** lame *f*, feuille *f*, **S** hoja *f*, espada *f*, **I** làma *f*, spàda *f*, **G** Blatt *n*, Spreite *f*; the broad leaf-like part of any instrument or utensil, as distinguished from the handle, *the razor blade*, *the blades of the helicopter*, the leaf of a plant, *blade of grass*

blah *n coll* (imitative; 20c); **F** bla-bla *m*, **S** palabrería *f*, **I** sciocchézza *f*, stupidaggine *f*, **G** Blabla *n*; insincere, pretentious, nonsensical talk

blame¹ *v* (OF *blāmer*, *blasmer*, LL *blasphemāre* to reproach, Gr *βλασφημεῖν* speak ill or to the prejudice of one; early 13c); **F** blāmer, **S** culpar, **I** biasimāre, incolpare, **G** tadeln, Vorwürfe machen (wegen); find fault with, accuse, *he has only himself to blame*

blame² *n* (from the verb; early 13c) *n* **F** reproches *m/pl*, **S** culpa *f*, **I** cólpa *f*, responsabilità *f*, **G** Tadel *m*, Vorwurf *m*; responsibility for something wrong, *to deserve blame*, *the blame of his failure lies with him*; **to lay/put the blame for sth on sb**, censure sb for sth

blame-less *adj* (*blame* + *-less*; 14c); **F** irréprochable, **S** inocente, irreprochable, **I** irreprensibile, **G** schuldlos/e, untadelig/e; free from blame or censure

blame-worthy *adj* (*blame* + *worthy*; 14c); **F** coupable, répréhensible, **S** culpable, censurable, **I** biasimévole, riprovévole, **G** tadelnswert, schuldig; deserving censure for something that is wrong

blanch *v* (*F blanchir* to whiten, from *blanc* white; see *blank v*; late 14c); **F** blanchir, blémir, **S** palidecer, blanquear, **I** sbiancāre, imbiancāre, **G** bleichen, weiß machen; *literary* to turn pale, *she blanched for the horror*, to make white removing colour from, to put vegetables or nuts into boiling water in order to remove the skin

blanc-mange *n* (OF *blanc-manger* white food, from *blanc* white + *manger* eating, food; 14c); **F** blanc-manger *m*, **S** crema *f* (de vainilla, etc), **I** biancomangiāre *m*, **G** Pudding *m*; a sweet made of gelatine boiled with milk, forming a white jelly

bland *adj* (L *blandus* soft, caressing, It *blando*; 17c); **F** doux/ce, léger/ère, **S** suave, **I** blando/a, **G** mild, sanft; with little colour, lacking interest or energy, *a bland remark*, *bland help*

bland-ness *n* (*bland* + *-ness*; 19c); the state or condition of being bland

bland-ish-ment(s) *n* (*blandish* + *-ment*; cf. OF *blandissement*; late 16c); **F** cajoleries *f/pl*, flatterie *f*, **S** halagos *m/pl*, lisomjas *f/pl*/Schmeichelei *f*, **I** blandizia *f*, lusinga *f*, **G** Schmeichelei *f*; pleasant things that you say to somebody or do in order to influence them, *Peter's blandishments did not convince Katherine*

blank¹ *adj* (*F blanc* white, MedL *blancus*, OHG *blanch*, MHG *blanc*; early 14c); **F** blanc/che, vierge, **S** en blanco, virgen, **I** bianco/a, **G** leer, unbeschrieben; (of paper) not written on, *a blank sheet of paper*, *a blank tape*, *a blank cheque*, *a blank expression of the face*, *blank verse* unrhymed verse

blank² *n* (late 14c; about 1570 in the sense of a blank space); **F** blanc, vide, **S** blanco *m*, espacio *m* en blanco, **I** spàzio *m*

vuòto, **G** unbeschriebenes Blatt; an empty space in a document for you to sign or to write something, *he left blanks in the form for the contract, please, fill in the blanks*, *coll draw a blank*, to get no results

blank³ *v* **F** ignorer, **S** obstruir, impedir que haga un solo tanto, **I** ignorāre, èssere confùso/a, **G** auslöschten, erledigen; *BrE informal* to deliberately ignore someone, *after the end of the story she blanked him*, to be suddenly unable to remember sth, *in the exams my mind blanked*

blank cartridge *n* a cartridge that contains powder but no bullet

blank cheque *n* **F** chèque *m* en blanc, **S** cheque en blanco, **I** asségno *m* in bianco, **G** Blankoscheck; a signed cheque where the amount to be paid has been left blank

blan-ke¹ *n* (OF *blankete*, *blanquette*, *blanc* white + suffix *-ette*, MedL *blanchétus* white woollen tissue; the sense of bed covering is first recorded in 1300); **F** couverture *f*, manteau *m*, **S** manta *f*, frazada *f*, **I** copèrta *f*, còltre *f*, **G** Decke *f*, Bettdecke *f*; a thick cover, mostly made of wool, used to cover beds

blan-ke² *adj* **F** compréhensif/ive, général/ale, **S** general, comprensivo/a, **I** globale, complèto/a, **G** generell, einschließend; including, affecting everything, *a blanket insurance*

blan-ke³ *vt literary* **F** mettre une couverture à, **S** cubrir, envolver, **I** coprire con una copèrta, **G** zudecken, verdecken; to cover something with a thick layer, *the country was blanketed in snow*

blankety-blank *n informal only before noun* used in place of a taboo word, *a blankety-blank day*

blanquette *n* (French, see **blanket** *n*; 20c); a dish consisting of white meat, such as chicken or veal

blare¹ *v* (Middle Dutch and Low German *blaren*, MHG *bleren* to shout, ModG *plärren*, apparently imitative; 15c); **F** sonner, retentir, **S** resonar, sonar muy fuerte, **I** squillāre, suonāre fortemēte, **G** schmettern, brüllen; to roar, to sound harshly, *the alarm was blaring*

blare² *n* (from the verb; early 19c); **F** sonnerie *f*, son *m*, **S** estrépito *m*, sonido fuerte, **I** strombettio *m*, squillo *m*, **G** Schmettern *n*, Brüllen *n*; a loud unpleasant noise, *the blare of car horns*

blar-ney *n informal* (Blarney stone, a stone in Blarney Castle, near Cork, Ireland. Anyone who kisses it is said to acquire the art of flattery and of persuasive talk, 'the gift of the garb'; as from the character of *Lady Blarney*, in Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield*; 18c); **F** cajolerie *f*, flatterie séduisante, **S** coba *f*, labia *f*, adulación *f*, **I** adulazione *f*, lusinga *f*, **G** (plumpe)Schmeichelei; pleasant but untrue thing you tell somebody to persuade them, *to have kissed the Blarney stone*, to have the art of flattery

blasé *adj* (*F blasé*, past part. of *blaser* to exhaust with pleasure; etymology unknown, but in Picard dialect *blasé* is 'gonflé par excès d'alcohol', Le Robert; 19c); **F** blasé/e, **S** hastiado/a de todo, **I** indifferēte, scèttico/a, **G** gleichgültig; not impressed, not excited or worried about sth, because you have experienced it many times, *she appeared blasé at this new experience*

blas-phem *v* (ME *blasfemen*, OF *blasfemer*, L *blasphemāre*, Gr *βλασφημεῖν*, transferred to Latin in the Vulgate, and used liturgically in Modern English; it also gave origin to English to **blame**, *qv*; 14c); **F** blasphémer, **S** blasfemar, **I** bestemmiāre, **G** lästern; to speak profanely about God and religion, to swear using the name of God;

blasphemer *n* (OF *blasphemeor*, *-eur*, L *blasphemat-ōrem*; late 14c); **F** blasphémateur/trice, **S** blasfemador/ora, **I** bestemmiatōre *m*, **G** (Gottes)Lästerer *m*; one who mentions profanely God's name or sacred things

blas-phemy *n* (ME *blasf(h)emie*, OF *blasfemie*, LL *blasphēmia*, Gr *βλασφημία*, abstract sb of *βλάσφημος*; late 12c); **F** *blasphème* f, **S** *blasfemia* f, **I** *bestēmmia* f, **G** *Blasphemie* f (Gottes)Lästerung f; profane speaking of God or sacred things

blast¹ *n* (OE *bl(æ)st* strong gust of wind, ON *blāsa* to blow, ModG *blasen*, cf L *flātus*; late 11c); **F** *explosion* f, *bouffée* f de vent, *coup* m de vent, **S** *ráfaga* f, *trompetazo* m, **I** *esplosióne* f, *ràffica* f, *ventàta* f, **G** *Explosion* f, (heftiger)Windstoß m, *Schmetter* n; a blowing or strong gust of wind, *a blast of cold air*, a sound of a wind instrument, *the blasts of the ship's syren*, an explosion, *a bomb blast*, fig. *a blast of criticism on the part of the press*; **a blast from the past** *informal* something of the past that you remember and reminds you of a certain time in your life

blast² (from the noun; late 12c); **v** **F** *faire sauter* (à la dynamite), **S** *volar*, *derribar*, **I** *får esplòdere*, *suonàre*, **G** *sprengen*; to blow up, to destroy with explosives

blast-ed *adj coll* used to emphasize that you are annoyed about something, *that blasted ring!*

blast furnace *n* a large oven in which iron ore is melted in order to take out the metal

bla-tant *adj* (in Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, 1596, used in the phrase 'blatant beast'; *etym* uncertain, but see L *blatīre* to babble, or English *to babble*, from L *blaterāre*); **F** *criant/e*, **S** *descarado/a*, *estrepitoso/a*, **I** *lampànte*, *sfacciàto/a*, **G** *brüllend*, *lärmend*; very obvious, done without shame, *a blatant lie*

blatantly *adv* in a blatant way, *he lied blatantly*

blather *v/intr* dialectal variant of **blether**

blaze¹ *n* (OE *blase*, *bl(æ)se* torch, firebrand, cognate with MHG *blas* torch, candle, OHG *bläss*, ModG *Blass*); **F** *flamme(s)* f/pl, *feu* m, **S** *llamarada* f, *incendio* m, **I** *fiammàta* f, *baglióre* m, **G** *Flamme* f, *Feuer* n; bright flame or fire, especially a dangerous one, *he died in the blaze*, a brilliant light, *the blaze of the sun*, fig. *the blaze of fame*

blaze² *v/i* (from the noun; 12c); **F** *flamber*, **S** *arder en llamas*, *brillar*, **I** *àrdere*, *avvampàre*, **G** *aufflammēn*, *Bäume anschalmen*; to burn with a strong flame, *a fire was blazing in the night*

blaze³ *n* (*etym* uncertain, but see ON *blesi* 'white star on a horse's forehead', Middle Dutch *blesse*, MHG *blasse*, ModG *Blässe*; 17c); **F** *marque allongée blanche*, **S** *mancha* f, *estrella* f, **I** *incisión* f, **G** *Markierung* f; a white mark on the face of a horse or ox

blazer *n* (*blaze* verb + *-er*; early 17c); a sports jacket with the badge of a school, of a club, etc, worn as part of a uniform

blazing *adj* (see **blaze**¹ n); **F** *en feu*, *enflammé/e*, **S** *brillante*, *violento/a*, **I** *fiammeggiànte*, *splendènte*, **G** *schreiend*, *eklatant*; *only before noun* extremely hot because the sun is shining, *a blazing summer day*, very bright, *a blazing dawn*, *coll* furious, *blazing fury*

blazon¹ *n* (F *blason*, of uncertain origin; could be referred to a Teutonic word identical with English *blaze* n, or with German *blasen* to blow; 14c); **F** *blason* m, *armoiries* f/pl, **S** *blasón* m, **I** *blasóne* m, **G** *Wappenschild* m/n, *Wappenkunde* f; a shield in heraldry, a coat of arms,

blazon² *v/t* (from the noun, or directly from French *blasonner*; 16c); **F** *blasonner*, **S** *proclamar*, **I** *diffòndere*, **G** *ausmalen*; to display, to make public, *the company's achievements were (em)blazoned on the front page of the newspaper*

bleach¹ *v* (OE *bl(æ)can* to whiten linen, ME *blechen*, cognate with OHG *blīhan*, ModG *bleichen*, Old Icelandic *bleikja* to bleach); **F** *blanchir*, *décolorer*, **S** *blanquear*, **I** *sbiancàre*, *candeggiàre*, **G** *bleichen*; to make sth white or

pale, either by the sunlight or with a chemical, *she bleached her hair*

bleach² *n* (from the verb; early 15c); **F** *décolorant* m, **S** *lejía* f, *blanqueador* m, **I** *candeggina* f, **G** *Bleichmittel* n; a chemical substance that is used to make something pale or white

bleach-er *n* **bleach-ers** *n/pl* *AmE* (see **bleach** v; from the bleaching of the sun on the benches; 1889); uncovered seats at sports events, or at a stadium; the occupants of such seats

bleak *adj* (OE *bleike* pale, *etym* uncertain, cf Old Icelandic *bleikr* pale, see **bleach**; early 14c); **F** *lugubre*, *morne*, *exposé au vent*, **S** *nada prometedor/a*, *crudo/a*, *desierto/a*, *inhóspito/a*, **I** *deprimènte*, *fréddo/a*, *brüllo/a*, *espòsto/a* al vènto, **G** *freudlos*, *trübe*, *kahl*, *rauh*; not encouraging, *the future looks bleak for our company*, (said of weather) cold, *a bleak winter's day*, (of a place) with no pleasant features, *a bleak landscape*

bleary *adj* (of uncertain origin, perhaps related to *blur*, but cp OHG *blerre* having blurred vision, and LG *bleer-oged*, ME *blereighed*; the adj *blear* arose late in 14c, and *bleary* late in the 15c); **F** *trouble*, **S** *legañoso/a*, **I** *annebbiàto/a*, *velàto/a*, **G** *mit trüben Augen*; of eyes, not able to see clearly, because you are very tired or drunk, *her eyes were bleary*, *for want of sleep*

bleary-eyed, *adj*

bleat¹ *v* (OE *blætan*, cognate with OHG *blāzan* to bleat, ME *bleten*, Modern Dutch *blaten*, from Indo-European, but see Gr *φλεδών* idle talk, apparently of imitative origin); **F** *bêler*, *se plaindre*, **S** *balár*, *quejarse tristemente*, **I** *belàre*, *piagnucolàre*, **G** *blöken*, *meckern*, in *weinerlichem* Ton reden; to cry as a sheep, as a goat or calf, *informal* to complain with an annoying voice, *John bleated his excuses*

bleat² *n* (from the verb; late 16c); **F** *bêlement* m, **S** *balido* m, **I** *belàto*, *piagnucolio*, **G** *Blöken* n; the sound that a sheep or goat makes, *the bleat of the lamb*

bleed *v* (OE *blēdan*, Old Frisian *blēda*, OHG *bluotēn*, Old Icelandic *bl(æ)dha*, related to OE *blōd* blood, from Proto-Germanic); **F** *saigner*, **S** *sangrar*, *desangrar*, **I** *sanguinàre*, **G** *bluten*, *verbluten*; to lose blood, *I was bleeding at the nose*, fig. *my heart bleeds for her*

bleed-er *n* *BrE derogatory* **F** *salaud* m, *hémophile* m, **S** *sangrador/ora*, *hemofilico/a*, **I** *sanguisùga* m/f, *emofilico/a*, **G** *Erpresser* m, *Bluter* m; a despicable person, one you are annoyed with, *medical*, one who suffers haemophilia

bleed-ing *adj* of **bleed**, **F** *saignant/e*, **S** *sangrante*, *dolorido/a*, **I** *sanguinànte*, **G** *Bluter* m; losing blood, *his wound was bleeding*, fig. *bleeding heart*; *noun* the process of losing blood, *the bleeding of his nose*

bleep¹ *v* (imitative; 20c); to give out a short radio signal

bleep² *n* (20c); a sound or signal given out by an electronic equipment

bleep-er *n* a device that beeps on receiving a radio signal

blem-ish¹ *vt* (ME *blemis*, *blemishen*, OF *blemiss-*, stem of *ble(s)mir*, of uncertain origin; 14c); **F** *tacher*, *ternir*, **S** *tacha* f, *mancha* f, **I** *macchiàre*, **G** *schaden*, *verunstalten*; to impair or mar the beauty of sth, to spoil somebody's reputation, *the story severely blemished the chairman's record*

blem-ish² *n* (from the verb; 16c); **F** *défaut* m, *imperfection* f, **S** *manchar*, **I** *màcchia* f, **G** *Fehler* m, *Mangel* m; a mark on the skin or on an object that spoils its appearance, making it appear less beautiful, *a blemish on his skin*, fig. *a blemish on his reputation*

blench *v* (OE *blencan* deceive, ME *blenchen* move suddenly, cognate with ON *blekkja* to impose upon, to cheat); **F** *blémir*, *sourciller*, **S** *recular*, *palidecer*, **I** *ritràrsi*, *tiràrsi* indietro, **G** *verzagen*, *zurückschrecken*; *literary*, to draw

back, to shrink away, to elude, to avoid in fear, *she blenched when seeing that man*

blend¹ *v* (OE *blondan* to mix, ME *blenden*, Old Icelandic *blanda* to mix, cognate with OHG *blantan* to mix); **F** *mélanger*, *mêler*, **S** *mezclar*, *combinar*, **I** *mescolare*, *miscelare*, **G** (ver)mischen; to mix together, *to blend butter and sugar*

blend² *n* (from the verb; late 19c); **F** *mélange m*, **S** *mezcla f*, *combinación f*, **I** *miscèla f*, *mistura f*, **G** *Mischung f*; a mixture of different things of the same type, *a blend of coffee*

blend-er *n* (from the verb; late 19c); **F** *mixer m*, *mixeur m*, **S** *catador/ora*, **I** *miscelatore m*, *frullatore m*, **G** *Mischmaschine f*; an electric machine used for blending foods and making them liquid

bles *v* (OE *bl(æ)dsian*, *blēdsian*, ME *blesen* to consecrate, originally 'to mark with blood', 'to consecrate'; the sense-development of the word was influenced by its having been chosen, in the English version of the Bible, to translate the L *benedicere* to speak well of, Gr *εὐλογέω* speak well of, praise); **F** *bénir*, **S** *benedicir*, **I** *benedire*, **G** *segnen*; to consecrate, to extol as holy, to wish happiness to, *to bless the bread and wine*, *God bless you!*

blessed *adj literary* **F** *bienheureux/heureuse*, **S** *bendito/a*, *beato/a*, **I** *sacro/a*, *benedetto/a*, **G** *gesegnet*, *glücklich*; happy and enjoying good fortune, *a blessed marriage*, *a blessed man*, religion *the Blessed Virgin Mary*

bless-ing *vbl n* (bless + -ing; 1070 as *bletsunga*, 1562 as *blissing*); **F** *bénédictio* *f*, **S** *bendición f*, **I** *benedizione f*, **G** *Segen m*, *Segnung f*; something that is blessed and improves your life, *her help was a real blessing*

blether¹ *v* Scottish and Northern dialect (ME *blather*, ON *bladhra* to talk stupidly; early 16c); **F** *paroles f/pl en l'air*, *bêtises f/pl*, **S** *disparates m/pl*, **I** *chiacchiere f/pl sciocche*, *ciànce f/pl*, **G** *Gewäsch n*, *Quatsch m*; chat, gossip

blether² *n* (from the verb; late 18c); **F** *dire des bêtises*, **S** *charlatanear*, *decir tonterías*, **I** *chiacchiere*, *cianciare*, **G** *quatschen*; to talk foolishly, to chat about things that are unimportant

blew past tense of **blow**

blight *n* (of unknown origin; the word entered literature from the speech of farmers and gardeners in the 17th century); **F** *rouille f*, *influence f néfaste*, **S** *añublo m*, *tizón m*, *plaga f*, **I** *carbòncio m*, *rovina f*, **G** *Mehltau m*, *Vernichtung f*; any influence of unknown origin that suddenly destroys plants, a disease in plants caused by fungoid parasites, as mildew, rust, etc, *potato blight*, fig. something that has a bad effect on something or somebody, *alcohol was his blight*

blight-er *n* anything that blights

bli-mey *interj informal* (corruption of the imprecation 'God blind me!', or 'blame me!'; late 19c); **F** *mince alors!*, **S** *caray!*, **I** *accidenti!*, *càpperi!*, **G** *ich werd' verrückt!*; used to express amazement or surprise, *blimey, it was my husband!*

blimp *n* (of uncertain origin, apparently from 'Type B-limp dirigible', lacking a stiff internal structure; early 20c); a small non rigid dirigible, lighter than air, a barrage balloon so called, Colonel Blimp, a character in David Low's (1891-1863) cartoons, voicing incurably conservative ideas

blind¹ *adj* (OE *blind*, OS *blind*, ON *blindr*, Modern Danish Swedish and Dutch *blind*, OHG *blint*, ModG & Dutch *blind*, from Proto-Germanic); **F** *aveugle*, *sans issue*, **S** *ciego/a*, *sin visibilidad*, **I** *ciéco/a*, **G** *blind*; lacking sight, *the blind*, fig. *blind with rage*, closed at one end, *blind alley*

blind² *n* (from the adjective; late 11c); **F** *store m* (à l'italienne), **S** *los ciegos*, *persiana f*, **I** *avvolgibile m*, *persiana f*, *veneziana f*, **G** *Rolladen m*, *Rouleau n*; a covering for a window, especially one made of cloth, also **roller blind**, **venetian blind**, *AmE shade*, **window shade**

blind³ *vt* (OE *blendan*, Gothic *gabljindjan*, ME *blinden*, Modern Dutch *verblinden*); **F** *aveugler*, **S** *cegar*, **I** *accecare*, *abbagliare*, **G** *blind machen*, *fig. verdunkeln*; make blind, *he was blinded in a car accident*

blind date *n* a meeting between two people who have never met before, arranged for romantic reasons

blind-er *n* an outstanding performance, particularly in sport, *to play a blinder of a game*, *coll* a heavy drinking session

blind-fold¹ *adj* **F** *les yeux bandés*, **S** *con los ojos vendados*, **I** *cón gli òcchi bendati*, **G** *mit verbundenen Augen*; wearing a blindfold, with the eyes covered, *prisoners were sitting blindfold*

blind-fold² *v* **F** *bander les yeux à ou de (quelqu'un)*, **S** *vendar los ojos*, **I** *bendare gli occhi*, **G** *die Augen verbinden*; to put a piece of cloth over someone's eyes, *the prisoner was blindfolded*

blind-fold³ *n* **F** *bandeau m*, **S** *venda f*, **I** *bènda f*, **G** *Binde f*, *Band m*; a piece of cloth that is put over somebody's eyes, to prevent them from seeing

blind-fold⁴ *adv* **F** *aveuglément*, *les yeux fermés*, **S** *con los ojos cerrados*, **I** *a òcchi chiùsi*, *alla cieca*, **G** *mit verbundenen Augen*; used to mean that sth is to you very easy to do, *I can do it blindfold*

blind-ing *adj* **F** *aveuglant/e*, **S** *intenso/a*, *cegador/a*, **I** *accecare*, *abbagliante*, **G** *blendend*; very bright, such as to make it difficult for you to see, *blinding light*, *blinding rain*, fig. *a blinding rage*, very impressive, *a blinding victory*; **a blinding flash**, sth that suddenly becomes clear, *a blinding flash of inspiration*

blind-ing-ly *adv* extremely, *a blindingly clear problem*

blind-ly *adv* without being able to see what you are doing

blind man's buff *n* a children's game, in which one child whose eyes are covered tries to catch the others

blind-side *v* to hit the side of a vehicle by accident, *joan's car was blindsided by a van*

blind spot *n* something that you are not able or not willing to understand, *the boy has a blind spot for the spelling*, an area of the road that you cannot see when you are driving, an area where a radio signal cannot be received

blink¹ *v* (from Middle Dutch *blinken* to glitter; late 16c); **F** *battre ou cligner des paupières*, **S** *guiñar*, *parpadear*, **I** *battere le palpebre*, **G** *blinken*, *mit den Augen verschließen*; move the eyelids, to look with the eyes half closed, to close your eyes and quickly open them again, *he just blinked at the news*, of a light, to go on and off continuously, *the neon sign was blinking*

blink² *n* (from the verb; early 18c); the action of blinking, *idm in the blink of an eye* within a very short period

blink-ered *adj* *blinkered opinions*, *blinkered attitudes*, i.e. very limited, very conservative

blink-er *n* (*blink + er*; early 17c); **F** *clignotant m*, **S** *intermitentes m/pl*, **I** *lampeggiatore m*, *lùce f intermittente*, **G** *Blinkleuchte f*, *Blinklicht n*; a light on the flank of a vehicle which goes on and off, to indicate the direction the vehicle is about to take, a sudden or momentary gleam of light

blink-ered *adj* *disapproving* said of a person who is unable to see or to understand other people's point of view, *blinkered opinions*, *blinkered outlook*

blink-ers *n/pl* *AmE blinders* **F** *œillère f*, **S** *anteojeras f/pl*, **I** *paraocchi m/pl*, **G** *Scheuklappen f/pl*; pieces of leather that are attached at the side of a horse's eyes to prevent it from seeing sideways, fig. meaning that somebody has narrow-minded opinions, *that man has blinkers*

blink-ing *adj* *old fash* used to mean that you are annoyed, *a blinking music*

blip¹ *v* (*imitative*, a small flashing light on a radar screen, 1945, earlier, 1894, in Mark Twain, 'a quick popping sound'); to hit or blow sharply

blip² *n* (echoic; late 19c); a sudden sharp blow, a small flashing light on a radar screen, a minor problem, *the budget problems are only a blip*

bliss *n* (OE *blis*, ME *blisse*, influenced by *bless*; derived from the root of *blithe*, q.v.); perfect happiness, *marital bliss*, *what a bliss!*

bliss-ful *adj* full of bliss, joyful, happy in the highest degree

blis-ter¹ *n* (ME *blester*, *blister*, see OF *blestre* a lump, derived from a Scandinavian or West Germanic source, cf OHG *blāst* breathing, blowing, see **blast**); **F** ampoule *f*, cloque *f*, **S** ampolla *f*, **I** vescica *f*, bólla *f*, **G** Blase *f*, Pustel *f*; a swelling on the skin containing clear liquid, caused by burning or rubbing

blis-ter² *v* (from the noun; early 15c); **F** provoquer des ampoules, **S** ampollar, causar ampollas en, **I** prodürre, coprirsi di vesciche, **G** Blasen hervorrufen, Blasen ziehen; to form blisters, *his skin was blistering*

blis-ter-ing *adj* done with great energy, *at a blistering pace*, angry, *blistering remarks*, hot, *the blistering sun of Sicily*

blithe *adj* (OE *blithe* joyous, kind, cognate with OHG *blīdi*, Middle Dutch *blīde*, Old Icelandic *blīdr* cheerful, from a proto-Germanic root); **F** joyeux/euse, folâtre, **S** alegre, **I** gioiōso/a, allègro/a, **G** vergnügt; *literary* happy, cheerful, merry, *a blithe day*, do not caring about what you do, *a blithe disregard for the law*

blitz¹ *n* (**G** *Blitz*, short for *Blitzkrieg*, *Blitz* lightning + *Krieg* war; before 1939); **F** blitz *m*, **S** guerra *f* relámpago, **I** guerra *f* làmpo, **G** Blitzkrieg *m*; something which is done quickly and with a lot of effort, *a blitz of the police against criminality*, a violent and intensive attack, *a blitz of the second cavalry division against the enemies*

blitz² *v* (from the noun; 1939); to attack with a blitz

blitz-krieg *n* (German; 20c); a sudden military attack, aiming at gaining a quick victory

blizz-ard *n* *AmE* (according to OED the word is apparently onomatopoeic, and was in colloquial use in the West in 19c, from dialectal *blizz* violent rainstorm + intensive suffix *-ard*, and became general in the American newspapers during the severe winter of 1880-81; nevertheless it could be of German origin, brought into common use by German settlers, see German *Blitz* lightning); **F** blizzard *m*, **S** ventisca *f*, **I** bufèra *f* di néve, **G** Blizzard *m*; a snowstorm with violent wind, 'those fearful blasts known as 'blizzards' which send the 'poudre', or dry snow, whirling in icy clouds' (*Standard*, 22 January 1881, as in OED)

bloat *v/t/i* (*etym* unclear, apparently OE *blāwan*, ME *blot*, *blout*, *blouen* to blow; early 17c); **F** gonfler, bouffir, **S** hinchar, poner abotagado/a, **I** gonfiare, dilatàre, **G** aufblasen, aufanschwellen; to swell or make sth swell, to become bigger or rounder, to grow turgid, *his appearance was bloated by alcohol*

bloat-ed *adj* (*bloot* + *-ed*; 17c); full of liquid or gas, therefore bigger than normal, full of food after eating too much, *a bloated face*

blob *n* (*etym* uncertain; according to OED the verb 'appears in 15c, expressing the action of the lips in producing a bubble'; cf *bubble* as meaning *blister*, from ME *blober* a bubble; early 18c); **F** tache *f* (de couleur), pâté *m* (d'encre), **S** gota *f*, borrón *m*, **I** góccia *f*, màcchia *f*, **G** Tropfen *m*, Klümpchen *n*; a small drop of liquid, a globule of liquid

bloc *n* (French, from OF *bloc* piece of wood, see **block**; early 20c); **F** bloc *m*, **S** bloque *m*, **I** blòcco *m*, **G** Block *m*; a group of parties, nations, etc, formed to support a particular interest, *a trade/trading bloc*, *the former Communist bloc*

block¹ *n* (OF *bloc* piece of wood, cf OHG *bloh* block, Middle Dutch *blok*, MLG *block*, Swedish *block*, Danish *blok*; late 14c); **F** bloc *m*, **S** bloque *m*, obstáculo *m*, **I** blòcco *m*,

ostàcolo *m*, **G** Block *m*, Klotz *m*; a piece of solid material, *a bloc of wood*, *a bloc of marble*, a building that contains flats and offices, *a block of flats*, *she lives three blocks away from here*, a group of things sold together, *a block of tickets*, a structure put across a road to stop traffic, *a road block*

block² *v* (from French *bloquer*; late 16c); **F** bloquer, obstruer, **S** obstruir, cerrar, **I** bloccàre, ostruire, **G** blockieren, hindern; to stop sth from moving, *the road is blocked by the snow*, *police blocked the man*

block-ade¹ *n* (*block* + *-ade*; late 17c); **F** blocus *m*, **S** bloqueo *m*, **I** blòcco *m*, **G** Blockade *f*; the action of blocking a harbour by hostile ships, *the naval blockade of La Rochelle*, *the economic blockade*

block-ade² *v* (from *block* verb; late 17c); **F** bloquer, faire le blocus de (une place), **S** bloquear, **I** mèttere il blòcco *m*, **G** blockieren; the action of surrounding a place, especially a port, to prevent people from entering or coming out

block-age *n* (*block* + *-age*; 19c); **F** obstruction *f*, **S** obstrucción *f*, obstáculo *m*, **I** blòcco *m*, bloccaggio *m*, **G** Blockierung *f*; sth that blocks or obstructs movement, an obstruction, *a blockage in the arteries*

block and tackle *n* **F** poulie *f*, roulet *m*, **S** polea *f*, **I** pulèggia *f*, **G** Scheibe *f*; a device for raising heavy objects off the ground, which works with a system of ropes and pulleys

block-buster *n* (*block* + *burst-er*, in *coll* becomes *buster*; late 20c); an aerial bomb capable of destroying a whole block of buildings; also *transf* and *fig.*, an expensively produced and commercially successful film, novel, etc, a powerful thing or person

block capitals *n/pl* also **block letters** letters written separately and using the capital letters, *please, print your address in block capitals*

block-head *n* (*block* sb + *head*; 16c); **F** lourdaud *m*, **S** zopenco/a, imbécil, **I** tèsta *f* di légno, **G** Dummkopf *m*; a wooden head, hence a head with no more intelligence than this

block vote *n* a number of votes which are made by one person who represents a group

bloke *n* *slang* **F** type *m*, **S** tío *m*, sujeto *m*, **I** un individuo *m*, un tizio *m*, **G** Kerl *m*; a man, a fellow

blonde *adj* & *n* (OF *blonde*, MedL *blondus*, but cp MHG *blunde*, *blunt*; late 15c); **F** blond/e, **S** rubio/a, güero/a, **I** bióndo/a, **G** blond(Haar), hell; (of hair) of a light colour

blood¹ *n* (OE *blōd*, OS *blōd*, Dutch *bloed*, OHG *bluot*, Old Icelandic *blōdh*, Gothic *blōth*; early 11c); **F** sang *m*, **S** sangre *f*, **I** sàngue *m*, **G** Blut *n*; the red liquid circulating in the arteries and veins

blood² *v* (from the noun; early 17c); **F** initier, donner (aux troupes) le baptême du feu, **S** tener el bautismo *m* de fuego, **I** iniziàre, avère il battésimo del fuòco, **G** Initiation *f*, Einweihung, Bluttaufé haben; to stain with blood, to give someone the first experience of sth, *he was blooded in hunting at the age of 16*, initiate troops in battle, *the Regiment was blooded in Normandy*

bloody *adj* (early 11c); **F** ensanglanté/e, **S** sangriento/a, cruento/a, **I** sanguinànte, sanguinóso/a, **G** blutig, blutbefleckt; involving a lot of violence and blood, *a bloody contest*, covered with blood, *his bloody nose*, *fig. his bloody hands*; *adv* used to emphasize a comment, *a bloody fool*

blood bank *n* a place where blood is stored for transfusion

blood-bath *n* **F** carnage *m*, massacre *m*, **S** masacre *m*, matanza *f*, **I** bàgno di sàngue, **G** Blutbad *n*; a massacre, a violent event where many people are killed, *the battle of Floddenfields was a bloodbath for the Scots*

blood brother *n* **F** frère *m* de sang, **S** hermano *m* de sangre, **I** fratèllo *m* di sàngue, **G** leiblicher Bruder; a man who, generally in a ceremony, has promised to consider another man as his brother, and to be very loyal to him

blood clot *n* **F** caillot *m* de sang, **S** coágulo *m* sanguíneo, **I** grumo *m* di sangue, **G** Blutgerinnsel *n*; a lump that is formed when blood becomes thick, *a blood clot in the brain was removed with an operation*

blood count *n* **F** numération *f* globulaire, **S** recuento *m* sanguíneo, **I** contéggio *m* dei glòbuli del sàngue, **G** Ausrechnung der weiße und rote Blutkörperchen; the number of red and white cells in somebody's blood

blood-curdling *adj* **F** à vous tourner les sangs, à (vous) figer le sang, **S** horripilante, espeluznante, **I** che fa gelàre il sàngue, orripilante, **G** Reißer *m*; said of something that causes horror, *a blood-curdling story*

blood donor *n* **F** donneur/euse de sang, **S** donante *m/f* de sangre, **I** donatore *m* di sàngue, **G** Blutspender *m*; someone who gives his blood to be used for transfusion

blood group *n* **AmE** **bloodtype**; **F** groupe *m* sanguin, **S** grupo *m* de sangre, **I** grùppo *m* sanguigno, **G** Blutgruppe *f*, Blutgruppenbestimmung *f*; any of the different types human blood is distinct in, *blood group/type A*

blood heat *n* **F** température *f* du corps humain, **S** calor *m* natural de la sangre, **I** temperatura *f* corpòrea, **G** Blutwärme *f*, Körpertemperatur *f*; the normal temperature of human body

blood-hound *n* **F** limier *m*, **S** sabueso *m*, **I** segùgio *m*, bracco *m*, **G** Schweiß-, Bluthund *m*; a large type of dog endowed with acuteness of smell

blooded *adj* (said of horses) of good breed, *a blooded stallion*, in combination with an adjective, *warm-blooded, cold-blooded*, etc

blood-ied *adj* **F** ensanglanté/e, **S** sangriento/a, **I** coperto/a di sàngue, insanguinato/a, **G** blutig; covered in blood, *his bloodied nose*

blood-less *adj* (*blood* + *-less*; early 13c); **F** exsangue, sans effusion de sang, **S** exangüe, incruento/a, **I** esàngue, incruento/a, senza spargimèto di sàngue, **G** blutlos, -leer, unblutig; very pale, *a bloodless face*, without killing or violence, *the bloodless revolution of 1688*

blood-let-ting *n* (*blood* + *-let*; early 13c); **F** effusion *f* de sang, saignée *f*, **S** efusión *f* de sangre, sangría *f*, **I** spargimèto *m* di sàngue, salasso *m*, **G** Aderlaß *m*, Blutvergießen *n*; bloodshed, especially between social groups, *ethnic bloodletting*, a medical treatment used in the past to take some of an ill patient's blood, fig. *financial bloodletting*

blood-lust *n* a strong inclination to shed blood and kill

blood money *n* *disapproving* money paid to a person to kill someone, money paid to the family of a murdered person

blood orange *n* a type of orange with red juice

blood poisoning *n* a serious infection of the blood, septicaemia, toxæmia

blood pressure *n* **F** tension *f* (de sang), **S** presión *f* sanguínea, **I** pressióne *f* sanguigna, **G** Blutdruck *m*; the pressure at which blood flows from the heart around the body

blood-red *adj* **F** rouge (comme du) sang, **S** sanguíneo/a, **I** róssò sàngue, **G** blutrot; bright red in colour, like blood

blood relation, also **blood relative** *n* **F** consanguin/ine, **S** pariente consanguíneo/a, **I** parènte di sàngue, consanguíneo/a, **G** Blutsverwandter *m*; someone related to you by birth, as distinct from one related by marriage

blood sausage *n* black pudding

blood-shed *n* **F** effusion *f* de sang, **S** efusión *f* de sangre, mortandad *f*, **I** carneficina *f*, **G** Blutvergießen *n*; the killing of people, usually in fighting or war, *further bloodshed was avoided, thanks to a truce*

blood-shot *adj* said of your eyes, when the parts that are normally white are red

blood sport *n* a sport in which animals are killed

blood-stain *n* a spot of blood on something

blood-stock *n* horses of pure breed, especially for racing

blood-stream *n* **F** le sang *m*, **S** corriente *f* sanguínea, **I** corrènte *f* sanguigna, **G** Blut(kreislauf *m*); the blood flowing through the body, *the drug will be injected directly into the bloodstream*

blood-sucker *n* (*blood* + *sucker*; late 14c); **F** sangsue *f*, parasite *m*, **S** sanguijuela *f*, **I** parassita *m*, sanguisùga *m*, **G** Blutsauger *m*; an animal, eg the leech, that sucks blood, *informal*, someone who expects money from other people, and does not make any effort towards providing it for himself, *his son has been for years a bloodsucker*

blood test *n* **F** analyse *f* du sang, **S** análisis *m* de sangre, **I** anàlisi *f* del sàngue, **G** Blutprobe *f*; a medical test of the blood, to see if it shows any disease

blood-thirsty *adj* **F** sanguinaire, **S** sanguinario/a, **I** sanguinàrio/a, **G** blutdürstig; someone who enjoys killing and wounding, *a bloodthirsty tyrant*, showing violence, *a bloodthirsty theatrical performance*

blood transfusion *n* **F** transfusion *f* de sang, **S** transfusión *f* de sangre, **I** trasfusiòne *f* di sàngue, **G** Blutübertragung *f*; the process of putting new blood into someone's body for medical purposes

blood type *n* see **bloodgroup**

blood vessel *n* **F** vaisseaux sanguins, **S** vaso *m* sanguíneo, **I** vàsò sanguigno, **G** Blutgefäß *n*; any of the tubes through which blood circulates, see **artery**, **vein**

bloody¹ *adj* (early 11c); **F** ensanglanté/e, sacré (eg, *un sacré menteur*), **S** sangriento/a, cruènto/a, maldito/a, **I** sanguinànte, cruènto, maledétto, dannàto, **G** blutbefleckt, blutig, verdammt; covered in blood, *a bloody battle*, **BrE** *informal* used to express anger or to emphasize what you are saying, *a bloody story, bloody hell!*

bloody² *v* (from the *adj*; early 11c); **F** ensanglanter, souiller, **S** ensangrentar, **I** insanguinare, macchiare di sàngue, **G** mit Blut beflecken, blutig machen; to stain with blood, to make sth bloody; *informal*, **bloody well**, used to show irritation

Bloody Mary *n* an alcoholic drink made by mixing vodka and tomato juice

bloody-minded *adj* *derogatory* said of a person unhelpful, inclined to cause difficulties, *a bloody-minded fellow*