

**bloom**<sup>1</sup> *n* (ME *blom*, *blome*, ON *blōm*, Middle Dutch *bloeme*, OHG *bluomo*, MHG *bluome*); **F** fleur f, **S** flor f, floración f, **I** fióre m, **G** Blüte f, Blume f; said of a plant, the state of being in flower (*blossom* is florescence as bearing promise of fruit, hence cherry trees are *in blossom*; *bloom* is not extended like *blossom*, and is thought of as the culminating beauty of a plant, e.g. hyacints are *in bloom*, OED); *flowers are in bloom in May*, fig. *her beauty is in bloom*

**bloom**<sup>2</sup> *v* (late 12c as *blomen*); **F** fleurir, **S** florecer, **I** fiorire, sbocciare, **G** (er)blühen; to produce flowers, *roses bloom in May*

**bloom-er** *n* *old fashioned BrE* (*bloom* verb + *-er*); a silly or embarrassing mistake, a type of loaf of bread that has diagonal cuts on the top

**bloom-ers** *n pl BrE old fashioned* (after Mrs Bloomer, who introduced the costume in 1851), a piece of women's underwear, wide loose trousers worn by women in the past

**bloom-ing** *adj/vbl n* (late 14c.); **F** en fleur, fleurissant/e, **S** floreciente, lleno/a de salud, **I** in fióre, fiorènte, **G** blühend; the state of being in bloom, *hyacinths are now blooming*, said of a person who has a healthy appearance, *Kathy's beauty is blooming*

**bloop-er** *n informal AmE* (echoic, 20c); a silly mistake, a howling noise

**bloss-om**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *blōstm*, *blōstma*, cognate with Middle and Modern Dutch *bloesen*, MLG *blōs(s)em*, OHG *bluoma*, *bluoma* to bloom; referred to the same root as **bloom**, apparently *blos-* being an extended stem of Latin *flōs* flower); **F** fleur f, **S** flor f, **I** fióre m, **G** Blüte f, Blütenfülle f; a flower or bloom, especially one that precedes edible fruits, *the peach blossom* (see **bloom**)

**bloss-om**<sup>2</sup> *v* (OE *blōstmian*, ME *blosmen*, cf Dutch *bloesmen*; 14c); **F** fleurir, **S** florecer, **I** fiorire, èssere in fióre, **G** blühen, Blüten treiben; the action of producing blossoms, *the cherry tree is blossoming*, fig. said of a person, to become more attractive, *she is blossoming into a fine lady*, *their friendship blossomed into love*

**blot**<sup>1</sup> *n* (of uncertain origin, cf Old Icelandic *bletr* blot, stain, Danish *plet* spot, OF *blotre*, *blostre* boil, lump; 14c); **F** tache f, (of ink) *pâté* m, **S** borrón m, **I** macchia f, **G** Fleck m, (Tinten)Klecks m; spot, stain, *an ink blot*, *that building is a blot on the landscape*, disgrace, blemish, *a blot on his reputation*

**blot**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; early 15c); **F** tacher, ternir, **S** manchar, desacreditar, **I** macchiare, **G** (mit Tinte) beschmieren, verdunkeln; to make a spot of ink fall on paper, *to make a blot on paper*, to make a wet surface become dry by pressing soft paper on it, *blot the paper after writing your name!*, fig. *to blot somebody's name*

**blotch**<sup>1</sup> *vt/i* (of uncertain origin, apparently onomatopoeic of **blot**, for which it is commonly used dialectally; early 17c); **F** couvrir (la peau) de taches, **S** manchar, cubrir de pústulas, **I** macchiare, ricoprire di macchie, **G** klecksen, beklecksen; to make blotches, to get blotches, *a paint that blotches*

**blotch**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; 17c); **F** tache f, **S** mancha f, erupción f (on the skin), **I** macchia f, chiàzza f, foruncolo m, **G** Fleck m, Klecks m; a mark on the skin, a blemish

**blotchy** *adj* (*blotch* n + *-y*; early 19c); **F** tacheté/e, brouillé/e, **S** manchado/a, lleno/a de manchas, **I** macchiato/a, chiazzato/a, **G** fleckig; an irregular mark on a person's skin, *a blotchy face*

**blot-ter** *n* (see **blot** n); **F** buvard m, registre m, **S** papel m secante, borrador m, **I** tampóne m di càrta assorbènte, brogliaccio m, **G** (Tinten)Löscher, Kladder, Berichtsliste; a

piece of blotting paper kept on top of a desk, *AmE* the record of arrests in a police district

**blotting paper** *n* **F** buvard m, **S** papel m secante, **I** càrta f assorbènte, **G** Löschpapier n; thick soft paper used for drying ink in a piece of paper you have just written on

**blotto** *adj BrE old fashioned* (probably from **blot**, 20c); very drunk

**blouse** *n* (ModF *blouse*, of uncertain origin, but cf MedL *\*bullosa* unattested, from *bulla* a bubble; 19c); **F** corsage m, chemisier (de femme), **S** blusa f, **I** blùsa f, giùbba f, **G** Bluse f; a workman's short tunic, a short-like garment for women

**blow**<sup>1</sup> *v* **blew** **blown** (OE *blāwan*, cognate with OHG *blāen* to blow, MHG *bloewen* to blow, ModG *blāhen*, L *flāre*); **F** souffler, **S** soplar, jadear, **I** soffiare, **G** blasen, wehen; to send out air from the mouth, *to blow a candle*, *to blow out the smoke of cigarette*, *to blow into the breathalyser*, said of the wind, *a cold wind was blowing from the north*, to cause sth to be destroyed by a bomb, *his car blew out*, said of an electrical fuse that stops working, *the bulb has blown because of a power surge*, said of a tyre, *the front tyre of the car suddenly blew*

**blow**<sup>2</sup> *n* (ME *blouen*, Middle Dutch *blouwen*, *blauwen* to beat, cognate with OHG *bluwan* beat, ModG *bleuen*); **F** souffler m, **S** golpe m, bofetada f, **I** còlpo m di vènto, ràffica f (di vènto), **G** Blasen n, Luftzug m; a hard hit from someone's hand, *a blow to the head*, fig. *a blow to my hopes of victory*, *a severe blow to the economic recovery*

**blow-dry** *v* to style hair while drying it with a hairdryer

**blow-drier** *n* **F** sèche-cheveux m, **S** secador m de pelo, **I** asciugacapèlli m/pl, fòn m, **G** Haartrockner m; a small electric machine that blows air into your hair, in order to dry it

**blow-er** *n old fashioned informal* the telephone

**blow-hard** *n informal disapproving* a person who talks too proudly about things they own or they have done

**blow-hole** *n* an opening in the top of a whale's head through which it breathes, a hole in the ice through which seals etc breathe

**blow job** *n offensive* the practice of sucking the penis in order to give pleasure

**blow-lamp** *n* a piece of equipment that produces a hot lamp, used in order to remove paint from a surface, *AmE* **blowtorch**

**blown** *v past participle of blow*

**blow-out** *n/v* said of a tyre when it suddenly bursts on a road vehicle while it is moving, *informal* a large party, a very large meal

**blowsy** *adj BrE informal*, said of a woman who is big fat and untidy

**blow-torch** *n* blowlamp

**blow-up** *n* an enlargement of a photograph or of a picture

**BLT** *abbr* bacon lettuce and tomato, i.e. a sandwich filled with these foods

**blub-ber** *n* (ME *bluber*, apparently with reference to bubbling water or foaming waves, probably of imitative origin; late 14c); **F** graisse f ou lard m de baleine, **S** grasa f de ballena, **I** gràsso m di balèna, **G** Tran m, Speck m; a layer of fat around the body of a whale, *informal* too much fat on the body of a human, *eat less and get rid of that blubber!*

**blud-geon** *n* (of unknown origin; 18c); **F** gourdin m, matraque f, **S** cachiporra f, **I** màzza f, randèllo m, **G** Knüppel m; a short stick with a heavy end, a short club

**blue**<sup>1</sup> *adj* (OE *blāw*, ME *blew*, borrowed from OF *bleu*, MedL *blāvus*, probably cognate with L *flāvus*; early 14c); **F** bleu, **S** azul, **I** azzùro/a, blu, **G** blau; the colour of the sky when clear, *blue sky*, *blue eyes*, mentioning sexual activity, *a blue film*, showing sadness, *blue humour*

**blue**<sup>2</sup> *n* a person who has played a sport for Cambridge University against Oxford, and viceversa

**blue baby** *n* a baby whose skin is lightly blue, because he suffers heart problems

**blue-berry** *n* **F** myrtille *f*, **S** arándano *m*, **I** mirtillo *m*, **G** Heidelbeere *f*; the dark blue fruit of a bush that grows in North America

**blue-bird** *n* **F** rouge-gorge *m* bleu, **S** pájaro *m* azul (de America), **I** pettirósso *m* azzurro, **G** Rotkehlchen blau; a small blue bird that lives in North America

**blue-blood** *n* **F** sang m bleu, **S** sangre azul, **I** sàngue m blù, **G** blaues Blut, alter Adel; said of the families of the nobility, who have blue-blood

**blue-blooded** *adj* having blue blood, *ie* belonging to a noble family

**blue-bot-tle** *n* **F** mouche *f* de la viande, **S** mosca *f* azul, **I** callifora *f*, **G** Schmeißfliege *f*; a big fly with a blue body

**blue cheese** *n* **F** gorgonzola *m*, **S** gorgonzòla *m*, **I** formàggio m gorgonzòla, **G** Gorgonzolakäse *m*; a cheese that has thin blue lines of bacteria and a strong flavour

**blue-chip** *adj* said of a company whose investment is thought to be safe, *a blue-chip company*

**blue-collar** *n* workmen who work with their hands and with their physical strength, as opposed to **white-collars**, who work in an office

**blue funk** *n*, see **funk**

**blue-grass** *n* a traditional American country music played on guitars, banjos and violins

**blue-jay** *n* a North American bird with blue feathers

**blue-print** *n* **F** plan *m* détaillé, **S** cianotipo *m*, anteproyecto *m* (de), **I** cianografia *f*, **G** Blaupause *f*, Zyanotypie *f*; a prototype of a technical design which has white lines on a blue background, *the blueprint of the forthcoming issue of the journal*, a plan of action, *a blueprint for reform of the civil service*; *v* to make a blueprint

**blue riband**, also **blue ribbon** *n* the first prize, in the form of a blue riband, usually given to the winner in a competition

**blues** *n pl* a slow music originally from the south of the US, *a blues singer*

**blue-stocking** *n* *old fashioned* (from an eighteenth-century literary London club); a highly educated woman who is interested in serious academic subjects, *Elizabeth Montague, the bluestocking*

**bluesy** *adj informal* performed in the style of the blues

**blue tit** *n* a small European bird of the tit family

**blue whale** *n* a member of the whale family, that is the world's largest living animal

**bluff**<sup>1</sup> *vt AmE* (English *bluff* to blindfold, Dutch *bluffen* to boast, to make a trick at cards, LG *bluffen, blüffen* to frighten by menacing conduct; *AmE* 19c, developed from earlier English *bluff* to blindfold); **F** bluffer, **S** hacer un bluff, **I** fàre un bluff *m*, **G** bluffen; deceive by a show of self-confidence, *to bluff someone into doing something*

**bluff**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; late 17c); **F** bluff *m*, **S** bluff *m*, **I** bluff *m*, vanteria *f* infondàta, **G** Bluff *m*; an attempt to deceive someone pretending to do sth that you will not actually do, *the threat was only a bluff*

**bluff**<sup>3</sup> *adj* **F** carré et sincère, escarpé, **S** escarpado/a, brusco/a, **I** brüsko/a, **G** breit, rauh aber herzlich; outspoken, too open, in a way that people find rude, *Peter has bluff manners, but he is an upright gentleman*

**bluish** *adj* see **blue**, fairly blue, *a bluish garment*

**blun-der**<sup>1</sup> *v* (ME *blondren* act blindly or irrationally, cf Old Icelandic *blunda*, Norwegian and Swedish *blundra* to act blindly, related to OE *blind*; 14c as *blondren*); **F** faire une bévue ou une gaffe, **S** hacer una patochada, **I** gaffè *f*, errore *m* grossolàno, **G** Fehler oder Schnitzer machen; to confuse, to confound, to make a stupid mistake, *the Premier blundered*

*when refusing to listen to the opposition, to move blindly, he was blundering about/around in the room*

**blun-der**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; late 14c); **F** bévue *f*, gaffe *f*, **S** error *m*, **I** prèndere una cantonàta, **G** (großer) Fehler, Schnitzer *m*; confusion, trouble, bewilderment, *a political blunder*

**blun-der-buss** *n* (Dutch *donderbus*, *donder* thunder+*bus* gun, see **G** *Donnerbüchse*; 17c); **F** tromblon *m*, **S** trabuco *m*, **I** archibùgio *m*, trombóne *m*, **G** Donnerbüchse *f*; a short handgun with a large barrel, firing many balls at the same time

**blunt**<sup>1</sup> *adj/n* (etymology unknown, but cf ON *blunda* to doze, Old Icelandic *blunda* to shut the eyes, related to *blindr* blind; ealy 13c); **F** émoussé/e, épointé/e, *fig.* brusque, brutal/e, **S** embotado/a, despontado/a, **I** che non tàglia, smussàto/a, brüsko/a, **G** stumpf, unempfindlich; said of a pencil, of a knife, etc, that is not sharp, *a blunt knife*, rude, *a frank answer to a very blunt question*

**blunt**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the adj; late 14c); **F** émousser, épointer, **S** embotar, despuntar, **I** smussàre, spuntàre, **G** stumpf machen; to make a knife, a pencil, etc, less sharp, *to blunt a knife*, to make a feeling less strong, *that story blunted my enthusiasm*

**blunt-ness** *n* (*blunt* + *-ness*; late 15c); **F** franchise *f*, brusquerie *f*, **S** franqueza *f*, brusquedad *f*, **I** franchèzza *f*, schièttèzza *f*, **G** Grobheit *f*, Stumpfheit *f*; the condition of being blunt

**blunt-ly** *adv* to put it bluntly, to say sth in a very direct way that can offend people

**blur**<sup>1</sup> *n* (of uncertain origin, but apparently a variant of **blear**; 16c); **F** forme *f* confuse, **S** contorno *m* borroso, impresión *f* imprecisa, **I** visione *f* confusa o sfocàta, **G** Fleck *m*, undeutlicher Eindruck; a smear or stain with ink or other colouring matter, *a smear of ink, fig.* a stain on the character of somebody, an aspersion on somebody's character, *a blur on his reputation*, sth that you cannot see clearly, *the landscape was a blur in the fog*

**blur**<sup>2</sup> *vt/i* (from the noun; 16c); **F** brouiller, troubler, **S** hacer borroso, oscurecer, **I** macchiàre, rèndere confuso, **G** verwischen, verdunkeln; if something blurs, it is difficult to see it clearly, *the lights were blurred in the mist*, to make indistinct, *eyes blurred with tears*

**blurred** *adj* **F** indécis/e, flou/e, **S** borroso/a, pòco nítido/a, **I** indistinto/a, sfocàto/a, **G** unscharf, verschwommen; not clear, difficult to see clearly, *a landscape blurred by the fog, a blurred photo*

**blurry** *adj* full of blurs

**blurb** *n AmE slang* (coined in 1907 by Gelett Burgess, to satirize the excessive praise found on book jackets, from a drawing of a young lady whom he called Miss Linda Blurb); **F** annonce *f* sur la jaquette d'un livre, **S** anuncio *m* efusivo (de un libro), propaganda *f* publicitaria, **I** fascètta *f* pubblicitària, **G** Waschzettel *m*, Bauchbinde *f*; a brief descriptive note of the character of a book, printed on the jacket of a newly published book

**blurt** *v* (apparently onomatopoeic, expressive of a discharge of breath from the mouth: cf the *bl-* element as in **blow**, **blast**, etc, combined with another element of **spurt**, **squirt**, etc; late 16c); **F** lâcher (à l'étourdie), laisser échapper (un secret), **S** descolgarse con, revelar, **I** spifferàre, spiatellàre, **G** herausplatzen mit, ausschwatzen; **blurt sth out**, to utter sth abruptly and without thinking, *she blurted her secret out*

**blush**<sup>1</sup> *v* (ME *blissen*, *blishen*, *blussen*, from OE *\*blisian*, and *bliscan* become red, Middle Dutch *blōzen*, MLG *blösen*, from Indo-European); **F** rougir, **S** ruborizarse, sonrojarse, **I** arrossire *m*, **G** erröten, rot werden; to become red in the face, as a result of shame, *to blush with embarrassment*

**blush**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; late 16c); **F** rougeur *f*, **S** rubor *m*, sonrojo *m*, **I** rossóre *m*, **G** Erröten *n*, (Scham)Röte *f*; a red colour on the face, caused by shame or modesty, *a blush in her cheeks*

**blush·er** *n* a powder for making your cheeks look red

**blus·ter**<sup>1</sup> *v* (etymology uncertain, but *cf* ON *blāstr* breath, blowing, MLG *blüstern* to blow violently, Old Icelandic *blāsa* to blow, see **blast**; 15c); **F** (of wind) souffler en rafales, faire de l'esbroufê, parler haut, **S** (of wind) soplar recio, fanfarronear, **I** (of wind) infuriare, däre in escandescênze, **G** stürmen, poltern; (said of the wind or waves) to storm, to blow violently, *a blustering wind*, to talk in a loud and boastful way, *to bluster to cover up his own ignorance*

**blus·ter**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; late 16c); **F** fanfaronnade(s) *f*, **S** jactancia *f*, fanfarronadas *f/pl*, **I** spavalderia *f*, **G** Brausen *n*, Prahlen *n*; speech that is boasting or threatening

**blus·tery** *adj* (said of weather) with strong winds, *a blustery day*

**Blu·Tack** *n* a blue sticky material used to attach paper to walls, *to stick the posters with Blu-tack*

**Blvd** *n abbr* (used in writing addresses) for **boulevard**

**BM** *n abbr* for Bachelor of Medicine

**bn** *n abbr* for **billion**

**BO** *n abbr* for 'bloody odour', an unpleasant smell from a person's body, especially of sweat

**boa** *n* an item of clothing made of feathers and worn around the neck, especially by women, *a feather boa*

**boa constrictor** *n* a large South-American snake that kills animals by wrapping itself around them and crushing them

**boar** *n* (OE *bār*, cognate with OS and OHG *bēr*, modern dialectal G *Bär*, Middle Dutch and Dutch *bear* male pig; 13c); **F** verrat *m*, sanglier *m*, **S** verraco *m*, jabalí *m*, **I** vërro *m*, cinghiàle *m*, **G** Eber *m*, Wildschwein *n*; the male of the swine, a male pig

**board**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *bord* board, plank, cognate with OS *bord* table, OHG and MHG *bort*, Old Icelandic *bordh* bord, *cf* MedL *burdus* and *bordum*; the German word appears as the fusion of two different but related words, one meaning 'plank', 'table', the other meaning 'border', 'side of a ship'); **F** planche *f*, panneau *m* de publicité ou d'affichage, pension *f*, comité *m*, **S** tabla *f*, tablón *m*, pensión *f*, consejo *m* de administración, **I** àsse *m*, tåvola *f* di légno, tabellóne *m* pubblicitário, pensióne *f*, comitåto *m*, **G** Planke *f*, (Werbe)Plakat *n*, Verpflegung *f*, Komitee *n*; a long thin and flat piece of hard material, wood or plastic, used for particular purposes, **cutting board**, **chessboard**, **chopping board**; see also **blackboard**, **whiteboard**, *the teacher wrote the name on the blackboard*, **notice board**, **neon board**, **ironing board**; meals provided for you to stay somewhere, **half board**, **full board**, a group of people who are responsible for controlling a company or an organization, **board of governors**, **board of directors**, **board of examiners**

**board**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; 15c as *borden*); **F** aborder, accoster, monter à bord de, être en pension, **S** abordar, embarcarse en, dar pensión (*a*), **I** imbarcàrsi su, abbastàre, tenère (*o* èssere) a pensióne, **G** an Bord (eines Schiffs oder Flugzeug) gehen, entern, sich in Kost oder Pension befinden; to get on a plain, ship, etc, *passengers are expected to board now at gate 27*, to live in somebody's home paying meals, *she boards with an English family*

**board·er** *n* a student who stays at school during the day and night, at a boarding school; *cp* **day pupil**

**board game** *n* a game such as draughts or chess played with pieces which are moved on a board

**board·ing** *n* pieces of wood that are put together to form a floor, a fence, etc, the act of embarking on a plain, ship, etc, *flight A 747 boarding now*

**boarding card** *n* also **boarding pass**, a card that a passenger must have to board on a plane, etc

**boarding house** *n* a private house where you can pay for accommodation and meals

**boarding kennel** *n* a place where you can leave your dog for boarding while you are on holiday

**boarding school** *n* a school where pupils can stay while studying, *cf* **day school**

**board·room** *n* a room where the directors of a company or of an organization hold their meetings

**board·walk** *n* *AmE* a path made of narrow boards, usually raised above wet ground, sand, etc, or along a beach

**boast**<sup>1</sup> *n* (of uncertain origin; its phonetic analogues are 'the Romanic words in *-ost*, with the 'o' lengthened in later English, *coast*, *roast*, *toast*, etc', but of an Old French *\*boster* 'no trace has been found', OED; 14c as *bost*); **F** vantardise *f*, **S** fanfarronada *f*, **I** ostentazióne *f*, vanteria *f*, **G** Prahlererei *f*; arrogance, ostentation, *his boast of wealth is highly disturbing*

**boast**<sup>1</sup> *v* (from the noun; 14c); **F** se vanter, **S** ostentar, jactarse, **I** vantàrsi, ostentàre, **G** prahlen; to speak too proudly about one's own wealth or achievements, *he boasts of his own wealth*, to have sth to be proud of, *southern Italy boasts the volcanos Etna and Stromboli*

**boast·ful** *adj* (*boast* *n* + *-ful*; early 14c); **F** vantard/e, **S** fanfarrón/a, **I** vanagloriósó/a, **G** prahlerisch/e; one who boasts his own achievements, *the boastful soldier*

**boat** *n* (OE *bāt*, ME *bote*, apparently from a Proto-Germanic form preserved in OE *bāt*, adopted in MLG *bot*, ModG *Boot*, Middle and Modern Dutch *boot*; early 13c); **F** bateau *m*, **S** barca *f*, embarcación *f*, **I** bàrca *f*, battèllo *m*, **G** Boot *n*, Schiff *n*; a vehicle smaller than a ship, moved by oars or a motor, *a rowing boat*, *a fishing boat*

**boat·er** *n* a hat with a band, made of straw with a flat top, one who rows a boat for pleasure

**boat·hook** *n* a long pole with an iron hook at one end, used for pushing boats

**boat·house** *n* a building beside a river for keeping a boat in **boat·ing** *vbl/n* (*boat* verb + *-ing*; early 17c); **F** canotage *m*, **S** canotaje *m*, **I** nàutica *f* da dipòrto, **G** Bootfahren *n*, Bootsfahrt *f*; the activity of sailing or rowing a small boat for pleasure, *to go boating*

**boat·man** *n* a man who takes people somewhere in a small boat

**boat people** *n* people who escape from their country in small boats

**boat·yard** *n* an area where boats are built and repaired

**Bob** *n* *AmE* *abbr* for **Robert**, *BrE* *informal* **Bob's your uncle** used to mean that something will happen very simply and quickly, *do it this way and, Bob's your uncle, you will get a reward*

**bob**<sup>1</sup> *v* (of uncertain origin, see ME *bobben* to strike, to beat, Irish *baban* bobbin, Gaelic *bab*; early 14c as *bobben*); **F** s'agiter, se faire couper les cheveux au carré, **S** fluctuar, (hair) cortar a lo garçon, **I** fluttuàre, tagliàrsi i capelli *m/pl* alla maschiètta, **G** ruckweise bewegen, (Haare) kurz schneiden; to move up and down with regular movements, especially in water, *the boat bobs up and down on the water*, to cut a woman's hair to neck length all around the head, *she wears hair in a bob*

**bob**<sup>2</sup> *n* (late 17c); **F** mouvement *m* soudain, (coupe *f*) au carré *m*, **S** movimiento *m* brusco, pelo a lo garçon, **I** moviménto *m* brusco, capelli *m/pl* tagliati alla maschiètta, **G** Ruck *m*, Bubikopf(Haarschnitt) *m*; a quick movement of your head up and down, *a bob of the head*, a style of a

woman's hair all around the head, *informal* an old English coin, the shilling

**bobbed** *adj* cut, said of hair, cut so that it hangs to the level of the chin and all around the back

**bobber** *n* in fishing, a floating object attached to a line that keeps the bait at the proper depth

**bob·bin** *n* (MF *bobine* a small instrument used in sewing or tapestry making, OF *balbiner*; 16c); **F** bobine *f*, **S** bobina *f*, **I** bobina *f*, **G** Spule *f*; a reel or spool for winding wire

**bob·ble**<sup>1</sup> *v coll* (*freq* of **bob** *v*; *onomatopoeic*); **F** sautiller, **S** balancearse, **I** ballonzolare, **G** herumhüpfen; to move with continual bobbing, *the bobbling of the boat*

**bob·ble**<sup>2</sup> *n* a short jerky motion, a *bobbling movement*, *the bobble of the cork on disturbed water*

**Bobby** *n old-fashioned* a familiar form of **Robert**; a police officer, so named after Sir Robert Peel, the politician who created London's police force

**bobby pin** *n AmE* for **hairgrip** a small metal or plastic clip, used by women for holding their hair

**bob·cat** *n* a North American wild cat

**bobs** *n informal bits and bobs* small things of different types

**bob·sleigh** *n also bob* a vehicle with two metal blades instead of wheels, for racing down snow or ice

**bod** *n informal BrE* a person, *an odd bod*

**bode** *vi* (OE *bodian* announce, foretell, and OE *bēodan* to offer, proclaim, from *boda* messenger, cognate with Old Frisian *boda*, OS *bodo*, OHG *boto*, ModG *Bote*, all meaning 'a messenger'); **F** présager, être de bon/mauvais augure, **S** presagiar, **I** presagire, essere di buon/cattivo augurio, **G** ahnen lassen; to foretell, to predict, to be a sign of, *the news does not bode well*

**bodge** *v also bodge up*, an alteration of **botch**, make sth badly, *to bodge the repair of the car*; *n* something done or repaired badly, *a bodged piece of work*

**bod·ice** (a variant of **bodies**, considered as the plural of **body** retaining the earlier sound of final -s; the original phrase was 'a pair of bodies', and the word was formerly treated as a plural, like *pence*, *dice*, *mice*; the spelling *bodice* was established in the late 1600's); **F** corsage *m*, **S** corpiño *m*, almilla *f*, **I** corpetto *m*, **G** Mieder *n*, Oberteil *n*; an inner garment for the upper part of the body, strengthened with whalebone, a corset

**bod·ily**<sup>1</sup> *adj* **F** matériel/elle, corporel/elle, **S** corpóreo/a, corporal, **I** corpòreo/a, corporale, **G** körperlich/e, leiblich/e; connected with the body, *bodily functions*

**bod·ily**<sup>2</sup> *adv* sth done in a way that affects the whole body, *he moved the piece of wood bodily*, to move a large object in one piece, *the obelisk was lifted bodily*

**body** *n* (OE *bodig*, cognate with OHG *botah*, MHG *botech*, *botich*; this word disappeared in standard German, its place being taken by *Leib* life, cognate with English *life*, and *Körper*, from L *corpus-corporis*; early 13c as *bodī*); **F** corps *m*, **S** cuerpo *m*, **I** corpo *m*, **G** Körper *m*, Leib *m*; the physical structure of a man or animal, *the human body*, a group of people who are associated for a particular purpose, *the teachers' professional body*, *a body of 2000 troops*, a dead person, *her body was found along the beach*

**body armour** *n* clothing worn by the police etc to protect themselves

**body bag** *n* a bag for carrying a dead body in, especially in a war

**body blow** *n* a serious disappointment, *inflation is a body blow to hopes of economic recovery*

**body-build·ing** *n* the making of regular exercises in order to develop the muscles

**body clock** *n* **F** horloge *m* physiologique, **S** reloj *m* biológico, **I** orologio *m* biológico, **G** biologische Uhr; the

biological system that controls behaviours which happen at regular times in your body, like eating and sleeping, see also

**biological clock**

**body double** *n* **F** doublure *f*, **S** especialista *m/f* contrafigura, **I** controfigura *f*, **G** Double *n*, Doppelspieler *m*; a person who takes place in a film instead of an actor, when the scene involves using particular skills or during stunt scenes

**body-guard** *n* (early 18c); **F** gardes *m/pl* du corps, **S** guardaespaldas *m*, guardia *f* de corps, **I** guardia *f* del corpo, **G** Leibwächter *m*, Leibgarde *f*; an escort whose duty is to protect a person, *the bodyguard of the dictator*

**body language** *n psychol* the communication of information by looks and movements rather than by words, *the body language of Joan betrays her nervous tension*

**body odour** *n* an unpleasant smell from a person's body

**body piercing** *n* the making of holes in the body as a decoration, *tattooing and body piercing*

**the body politic** *n formal* all the people of a nation considered as a political entity

**body search** *n* a search of a person's body by the police for drugs etc

**body shop** *n* workshop where car bodies are repaired

**body stocking** *n* a close-fitting piece of clothing that covers entirely your body

**body-suit** *n AmE* a body worn by women

**body-work** *n* the outer part of a car, *to repaint the bodywork of the car*

**Boer** *n/adj* (*Boor* Dutch or German peasant, Middle Dutch *boer* farmer, cognate with OE *gebūr* dweller, farmer, ME *boveer*; 19c); **F** Boer *m*, **S** bóer *m/f*, **I** boèro/a, **G** Bur(e) *m*, Boer *m*, *adj* burisch; a descendant of the Dutch colonists who settled in South Africa, *the Boer War*

**bof·fin** *n BrE informal* (origin unknown; 20c); a scientist who knows a lot about science, *a maths boffin*, *a computer boffin*

**bog**<sup>1</sup> *n* (from Irish & Gaelic *bog-*, *bogach* marsh, Old Irish *bog* soft; 15c); **F** marécage *m*, **S** pantano *m*, ciénaga *f*, **I** palùde *f*, acquitrino *m*, **G** Morast *m*, Moor *n*; soft, wet ground, a morass, *a peat bog*, *BrE informal toilet*

**bog**<sup>2</sup> *v bogged, bogging*; **F** s'embourber, s'enfoncer (dans une fondrière), **S** quedar atascado en el lodo, empantanarse, **I** impantanàrsi, **G** im Sumpf oder Schlamm versinken; to make sth stuck in soft ground, *the car got bogged down in the mud*, to fall in a position such that no progress is made, *we bogged down in/with minor details which prevented any conclusion*, **bog off** *informal* used to tell someone rudely to go away, *bog off and let me work!*

**bogey**<sup>1</sup> *n* (a term used in golf, from a popular song entitled *The Bogey Man*; the imaginary adversary playing, invincible, is the 'bogey man'; 1836 *Bogey the Devil*, from a popular song of the time); a thing that causes fear, a problem that makes you feel anxious, *the bogey of unemployment*

**bogey**<sup>2</sup> *n* (apparently a nursery form of *bogle*, *boggart* a phantom, in Scots *bogill*, first recorded early in 16c, ultimately from *bogge*, a variant of *bugge*, *bug* terror, scarecrow, see **bugbear**; 19c); **F** spectre *m*, **S** duende *m*, trasgo *m*, **I** fantasma *m*, follétto *m*, **G** Kobold *m*, der schwarze Mann, *fig.* Buhmann *m*; the devil, a goblin, a bugbear, a person much dreaded, an object of terror or dread **bo·gey·man** *n* (late 19c); an evil spirit, a goblin, *the bogeyman will get you!*

**bog·gle** *v* (apparently a variant of *bogle* a spectre, or related to *bogey* as a variant of Scottish *bogill* goblin, bugbear; late 16c); **F** rechigner à faire quelque chose, (se) confondre, **S** sobresaltarse, vacilar, titubear, **I** confondersi, vacillare, **G** zurückschrecken, stutzen vor/bei, zögern; to confuse, to astonish, to get confused, to get astonished, *I bogged at the idea of spending so much money*

**boggy** *adj* (*bog* *n* + *-y*, see **bog**; late 16c); **F** marécageux/euse, **S** pantanoso/a, **I** paludoso/a, **G** sumpfig; of land, soft and wet, like a bog, *boggy ground*

**bogie** *n* a small vehicle with wheels that run on a railway

**bog-standard** *adj* *informal*, ordinary, lacking any special features

**bogus** *adj* *AmE* (*adj* use of **Bogus**, a machine for coining false money; the origin of the word is in **tant(a)rabogus** a name for the devil or **bogy**; early 19c); **F** faux/usse, **S** falso/a, fraudulento/a, **I** contraffatto/a, falsificato/a, **G** falsch, unecht; pretending to be genuine, *a bogus note*, *a bogus passport*

**bogy** a spelling of **bogey**

**bogy-man** see **bogeyman**

**bohémian** *adj* (**F** *bohémien*, originally 'a native of Bohemia', from the *Boii*, a people of ancient Gaul who settled in Bohemia, from *Boii* + *haemum*, cognate with *Home*; first in Shakespeare, in modern sense in Tackeray's *Vanity Fair*; 19c); **F** qui conduit la vie de bohème, bohémien/enne, **S** bohemo/a, **I** bohémien/enne, **G** Böhme *m*, Böhmin *f*, böhmisch; one who lives an unconventional life, generally an artist, *the Paris bohémians in the 19th century*

**boil**<sup>1</sup> *v* (**OF** *boillir*, *boullir*, **L** *bullire* to bubble, from *bullā* a bubble; early 14c); **F** bouillir, entrer en ébullition, **S** bullir, hacer hervir, ebullición, **I** bollire, far bollire, **G** zum Kochen bringen, kochen, sieden; to bring a liquid to the temperature at which it turns into gas, *the water is boiling*, to cook sth in boiling water, *to boil the eggs*

**boil**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; early 15c); **F** ébullition *f*, **S** hervor *m*, ebullición *f*, **I** bollitura *f*, **G** Kochen *n*, Sieden *n*; the act or state of boiling, **bring sth to the boil**, *bring the milk to the boil*, **on the boil**, said of sth very strong, *tension is on the boil*

**boiled sweet** *n* *BrE* a hard sweet that tastes of fruit

**boiler** *n* (*boil* verb + *-er*; 16c); a container that is used for boiling water to provide heating in a building

**boiler suit** *n* *BrE*, *AmE* **coveralls**, a suit in one piece worn for doing dirty work

**boiling** *adj* (*boil* verb + *-ing*; early 14c); **F** bouillant/e, **S** hirviendo, in ebullición, **I** bollente, **G** kochend, heiß; very hot, *a boiling hot day*

**boiling point** *n* the temperature at which a liquid becomes a gas, *the boiling temperature of water is 100°C*, fig. the point when a situation is about to go out of control, *the tension was at boiling point*

**boisterous** *adj* (**ME** *boistous*, of uncertain origin, apparently from **OF** *boisteus* rough, from *boiste* box, **MedL** *buxis*, **L** *buxus* a box-tree, boxwood; 15c); **F** turbulent/e, **S** turbulento/a, **I** turbolento/a, **G** stürmisch, turbulent; rough, violent in behaviour and speech, especially of children, *a boisterous class*,

**bok choy**, **pak choy**, *n* *AmE* Chinese cabbage

**bold** *adj* (**OE** *bald*, **OS** & **OHG** *bald* bold, swift, **ModG** *bald* soon, **ON** *ball-r*, Old Icelandic *ballr* terrible, Gothic *balþaba* boldly, from Proto-Germanic); **F** hardi/e, téméraire, **S** valiente, temerario/a, **I** coraggioso/a, temerario/a, **G** kühn; courageous, fearless, *a bold endeavour*

**bole** *n* (see Old Icelandic *bolr* bole, Middle Dutch *bolle* bole, **MLG** *bolle* plank; early 14c); **F** tronc *m*, **S** tronco *m*, **I** trónco *m*, **G** starker Baumstamm; the trunk of a tree

**bolero** *n* (Provençal *bola* ball, **L** *bullā* a bubble; 18c); **F** boléro *m*, **S** bolero *m*, **I** boléro *m*, **G** Bolero *m*; a traditional Spanish dance, often accompanied by the guitar and castanets

**boll** *n* (**OE** *bolla* bowl, cognate with **OS** *bollo*, **OHG** *bolla*, **MHG** *bolle*, cf **L** *bullā* a bubble); **F** capsule *f*, **S** cápsula *f*, **I** càpsula *f*, **G** Samenkapsel *f*; a seed pot, a swelling, the part of a cotton plant that contains the seeds

**bol-lard** *n* (origin unknown, apparently *boll* + *-ard*; 19c); **F** bitte *f*, **S** bolardo *m*, **I** bitta *f*, **G** Poller *m*; a wooden or iron post, on a ship or on a quay, round which ship's ropes are secured

**bollock-ing** *n* *coarse slang* severe reprimand, *to give a bollocking*, *to get a bollocking*

**bollocks** *n* *slang* offensive for testicles

**bol-ogna** *n* (It Bologna, a city in central-northern Italy; late 16c); a type of cooked meat, *the Bologna sausage*

**bol-shie bol-shy** *n/adj* (early 20c); jocular or contemptuous for Bolshevik

**bol-ster**<sup>1</sup> *n* (**OE** *bolster*, cognate with **ON** *bolstr*, Swedish & Danish *bolster*, Middle Dutch and Dutch *bolster*, **OHG** *bolstar*, **ModG** *Polster*, from Indo-European.); **F** traversin *m*, **S** travesero *m*, cabezal *m*, **I** guanciaie *m*, sostegno *m*, **G** Kopfpolster *n*; a long cylindrical pillow that is placed under other pillows to support them

**bol-ster**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; early 16c); **F** donner (*du courage*, *de la confiance*), **S** reforzar, dar aliento a, **I** sostenere, appoggiare, **G** (aus)polstern, unterstützen; to improve by supporting, to pop up, *he bolstered up my efforts*, *his support bolstered my chances of success*

**bolt**<sup>1</sup> *n* (**OE** *bolt*, cognate with **OHG** *bolz*, **ModG** *Bolz*, Dutch *bout*, Danish *bolt*, Swedish *bult*, from Indo-European); **F** verrou *m*, boulon *m*, **S** cerrojo *m*, perno *m*, **I** chivistello *m*, bullone *m*, **G** Schraube *f*, Bolzen *m*; a bar used to lock a door, a metal rod that has a head at one end and a screw thread at the other and is used with a nut to fasten things together, a flash of lightning, *a bolt of lightning struck the oak*, a type of short arrow shot from a crossbow

**bolt**<sup>2</sup> *v* (**OF** *bulter*, *buleter*, **ModF** *bluteau*, It *burattare*; 'the historical spelling of the word is *bolty*, but the dictionaries have confounded it with *bolt*', **OED**; probably going back to *bureter*, *bure*, **L** *burrus*, *būram* a plough-beam); **F** verrouiller, boulonner, **S** echar el serrojo, empernar, **I** serrare, imbullonare, **G** ver-, zuriegeln, verbolzen; to lock the door with a bolt, *don't forget to bolt the door*, to fasten things together using a bolt, *to bolt the benches to the floor*, to suddenly run somewhere very quickly, *when frightened by the sudden detonation the horses bolted*, to eat food very quickly, *to bolt one's own meal*

**bolt-hole** *n* (*bolt* verb + *hole*; 19c); a place you can escape to, especially to hide yourself

**bomb**<sup>1</sup> *n* (*bome*, late 16c as a translation of Spanish *bomba*, **L** *bombus* a deep sound, Gr *βόμβος* booming, humming, of imitative origin); **F** bombe *f*, **S** bomba *f*, **I** bómba *f*, **G** Bombe *f*; a weapon made to explode, *a bomb blast/explosion*

**bomb**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; late 17c); **F** bombarder, **S** bombardar, **I** bombardare, **G** bombardieren; to attack with bombs, *the airplanes bombed the enemy's fortifications*

**bomb alert** *n* *BrE* **bomb scare**

**bomb-ard** *v* (**OF** *bombarde*, **MedL** *bombarda* a mechanical engine for throwing stones to the enemy, apparently from **L** *bombus* a humming noise + *-arda* suffix; late 16c); **F** bombarder, **S** bombardear, **I** bombardare, **G** bombardieren; to attack with bombs or with heavy guns, fig. *to bombard with questions*, *with phone calls*, etc

**bom-bard-ier** *n* someone of the low rank in the British Army Artillery, in the US Air Force someone who drops bombs from an airplane

**bom-bast** *n* (a variant of *bombace*, *bombase*, from Middle and Old French *bombace* cotton, **MedL** *bambācem* accusative of *bambax* cotton, late Gr *βαμβάξ*; late 16c); **F** emphase *f*, boursoflure *f*, **S** ampulosidad *f*, palabras *f/pl* altisonantes, **I** magniloquenza *f*, stile *m* ampolloso, **G** Bombast *m*, (leerer) Wortschwall; inflated language, words which sound important but have little meaning

**bom·bas·tic** *adj* (*bombast* + *-ic*; early 18c); using words that sound important but have no real meaning, *bombastic speech*, *bombastic prose*

**bomb disposal unit** *n* *AmE* **bomb squad** a group of people whose job is to remove bombs preventing them to explode

**bomb·er** *n* (*bomb* + *-er*; 20c); **F** bombardier *m*, **S** bombardero *m*, **I** bombardiere *m*, **G** Bomber *m*, Bombenflugzeug *n*; an aircraft that throws bombs, a terrorist who puts bombs somewhere to hit people

**bomber jacket** *n* a short jacket that fits tightly around the waist and is closed with a zip, similar to the jacket worn by the US World War aircrew

**bomb·ing** *vbl n* (*bomb* verb + *-ing*; late 17c); **F** bombardement *m*, **S** bombardeo *m*, **I** bombardamento *m*, **G** Bombardement *n*; the act of dropping bombs from an aircraft

**bomb scare** *n* also **bomb alert**, *AmE* **bomb threat**, when people are warned that a bomb has been put somewhere and they must leave the area, *a bomb scare in central Baghdad*

**bomb·shell** *n* (early 18c); a very shocking piece of news, *finally he dropped the bombshell, he had been rejected at the exams*

**bomb site** *n* an empty area in a town where all the buildings have been destroyed by a bomb

**bona fide** *adj* (Latin, ablative of *bona fides* good faith); **F** de bonne foi *f*, **S** genuino/a, auténtico/a, **I** in buona fede, **G** in guten Glauben, auf Treu und Glauben; in good faith, genuine, *a bona fide man*

**bona fides** *n* good faith, *John's bona fides became apparent during the police investigation*

**bon·anza** *n* *AmE* (*Am/*Spanish, borrowed from Spanish *bonanza* fair weather at sea, *It* *bonaccia*, from assumed VL *\*bonacia*; 19c); **F** *bonanza year* *année f* de prospérité, **S** *bonanza f*, **I** *fònte f* di gròssi guadagni, **bonanza year** un ànno *m* pròspero, **G** *reiche* *Erzader*, *Fülle f*; a rich source of profit, a successful situation where one can make a lot of money, *a situation of bonanza for investors, a bonanza year for the commerce of books*

**bon·bon** *n* (French *good-good*, from L *bonus*; late 18c); **F** *bonbon m*, **S** *bombón m*, *confite m*, **I** *bonbon m*, *confetteria f*, **G** *Bonbon m/n*; a sweet, an item of confectionery

**bonce** *n* *BrE slang* (origin unknown, related to **bounce**; 19c); **F** *boule f*, **S** *coco m*, **I** *bòccia f*, **G** *Kugel f*, *Kopf m*; someone's head

**bond**<sup>1</sup> *n* (ME *bond*, a phonetic variant of *band n*, ME *bond* a serf, a tenant farmer, from OE *bōnda* householder, see **bind** and **band**); **F** *lien m*, *liaison f*, **S** *lazo m*, *vínculo m*, **I** *legàme m*, *vincolo m*, **G** *Fesseln n/pl*, *Verpflichtung f*; a strong connection, *the bond of friendship*, a written agreement, a promise, *he entered into a solemn bond with his cousin*, an official paper given by government or by a company for an investment of a sum of money, *I invested in government bonds*

**bond**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; 15c); **F** (en)lier, *liaisonner*, **S** *liar*, *vincular*, **I** *legàre*, *connètere*, **G** *verpfänden*; to develop feelings of love, *Peter and Catherine bonded immediately*, to stick two things together, *to bond the two surfaces*

**bond·age** *n* (AF *bondage*, A-L *bondagium*, AF *bonde*, A-L *bondus* + *-age*; early 14c); **F** *esclavage m*, *servage m*, **S** *esclavitud f*, **I** *servitù f*, *schiavitù f*, **G** *Knechtschaft f*, *Sklaverei f*; *hist* slavery, serfdom, the practice of having tied for sexual pleasure, the condition of having your freedom limited, *the bondage of social conventions*

**bond·ing** *n* *psychol* (*bond* verb + *-ing*; 17c); the binding or connecting together, the process of forming a close relationship between two or more people, *the bonding between mother and child*

**bone**<sup>1</sup> *n* (ME *bone*, OE *bān*, cognate with OS *bēn* bone, OHG *bein*, see ModG *Bein* leg; early 13c); **F** *os m*, (*of fish*) *arêtes f*, **S** *hueso m*, (*of fish*) *espina f*, **I** *òsso m*, (*of fish*) *lisca f*, *spina f*, **G** *Knochen m*, *Bein n*, (*Fisch*) *Gräte f*; the hard parts that form the skeleton of the body, *two bones were broken in the accident, the fish bones*

**bone**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; late 15c); **F** *désosser* (*la viande*), *ôter les arêtes de* (*un poisson*), **S** *deshuesar* (*meat*), *quitar las espinas* (*fish*), **I** *disossàre* (*of meat*), *spinàre* (*of fish*), **G** *die Knochen herausnehmen aus*, *Fisch entgräten*; to take the bones out of meat or fish, *the fishmonger will bone the trout*, *offensive* to have sex with someone

**bone china** *n* very delicate China cups made using clay and animal bone powder

**bone dry** *adj* completely dry

**bone idle** *adj* *informal* very lazy

**bone marrow** *n* (also **mar·row**) the soft substance that fills the hollow parts of the bones, *a bone marrow transplant*

**boner** *n* *slang* (*bone* + *-er*; 20c); **F** *gaffe f*, **S** *plancha f*, *patochada f*, **I** *erròre m* *marchiàno*, **G** *Schnitzer m*, (*grober*) *Fehler m*; a blunder which causes embarrassment, *informal* an erection of the penis

**bon·fire** *n* (*bone* + *fire*) fire of bones, in Scots *bane* + *fire*, a fire of bones, *eg* in the borough of Hawick; 16c); open-air fire, to burn waste or for a party, *the bonfire of Guy Fawke's night*

**Bonfire Night** *n* (also **Guy Fawkes night**) the night of 5 November, when people in Britain light fireworks and burn a guy on a large outdoor fire, in memory of the Gunpowder Plot

**bongo** *n* (American Spanish, Sp *bongó*; 20c); a small drum, usually held between the knees and played with the finger

**bon·homie** *n* (F *bonhomie*, from *bonhomme*; early 19c); **F** *bonhomie f*, *jovialité f*, **S** *afabilidad f*, **I** *bonomia f*, *affabilità f*, **G** *Gutmütigkeit f*, *Jovialität f*; the quality of being a good fellow, *a man full of bonhomie*

**bonk**<sup>1</sup> *v* (imitative; 20c); **F** *faire des galipettes*, *cogner*, **S** *dar cabriolas*, **I** *fàre le capriòle*, *fig.* *darsi alla pazza giòia*, **G** *Luftsprünge machen*; to bang or bumb, *slang* to have sexual intercourse

**bonk**<sup>2</sup> *n* (see the verb; 20c); an abrupt, heavy sound, *slang* an act of sexual intercourse

**bonk·ers** *adj* *humorous* (origin unknown; 20c); completely crazy and silly, *to go bonkers*

**bon mot** *n* from *French* *formal* a clever remark

**bon·net** *n* (ME *bonet*, OF *bonet*, chapel de bonet, *MedL* *bon(n)etus* a material for caps, cf *MHG* *bonit* bonnet; mainly Scottish, 14c); **F** *bonnet m*, *béret m*, **S** *gorra f*, *cofia f*, **I** *cappellino m*, *cùffia f*, **G** *Kappe f*, (*Damen*) *Hut m*; a head-dress for women, distinguished from the 'hat' by the want of a brim

**bonny** *adj* (of uncertain origin, apparently to be referred to OF *bon*, *bone* good, ME *bon*, *bone*, *boone*, L *bonus*, see **boon** *adj*; 16c); pretty, attractive, especially in Scottish-English, *Bonny Prince Charlie*

**bon·sai** *n* (Japanese; 20c); a Japanese small tree, grown in a pot so that it stays very small, the art of cultivating such a tree

**bonus** *n* (L *bonus* good, from a London Stock Exchange *slang*; 18c); **F** *gratification f*, *prime f*, **S** *sobrepaga f*, *prima f*, **I** *bònus m*, *gratifica f*, **G** *Bonus m*, *Prämie f*; money added to somebody's salary as a reward for good work, *the executives received a bonus of 10,000*

**bony** *adj* (*bone n* + *-y* suffix; 16c); **F** *aux gros os*, **S** *huesudo/a*, *óseo/a*, **I** *òsseo/a*, *ossùto/a*, **G** *knöchern*; referring to a part of the body that is very thin, and consists mainly of bones, *John's bony face*

**boo**<sup>1</sup> *v* (an imitation of a cow's lowing; early 19c); used to express disapproval at a speaker or performer, *the spectators booed at the speaker*

**boo**<sup>2</sup> *n* *exclamation* a sound people make to show that they do not like a speaker or an actor

**boob**<sup>1</sup> *n* *BrE informal* (early 20c); a silly mistake, *AmE* a silly person

**boob**<sup>2</sup> *v* to make a foolish mistake

**boob tube** *n* *BrE informal* **F** *néné* m, **S** a piece of women's clothing that only covers the chest

**booby prize** *n* a prize given as a joke to the person who is last in a competition

**booby trap** *n* a hidden bomb that explodes when you touch something that is connected to it, *a booby-trap bomb blast*

**booby-trap** *v* *the President's car was booby-trapped*

**booger** *n* *AmE* **bogey**

**boogey-man** *n* *AmE* for **bogeyman**

**boogie**<sup>1</sup> *n* also **boogie-woogie** (origin unclear; early 20c); a blues music played on the piano, with a fast rhythm

**boogie**<sup>2</sup> *v* *informal* (from the noun; 20c); to dance to pop music

**boo-hoo** *exclamation* *written* used to show the sound of somebody crying

**book**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *bōc* writing tablet, ME *boke*, *bok*, cognate with Old Frisian and OS *bōk*, OHG *buoch* written work, Swedish *bok*; the spelling *book* appeared late in 14c); **F** *livre* m, **S** *libro* m, **I** *libro* m, **G** *Buch* n; a collection of printed pages sewn together, *a book by Somerset Maugham*, *books* pl a written record of the financial accounts of a company, *the business adviser is examining the books of the company*

**book**<sup>2</sup> *vi* (late 11c as *boken*, *bocken* to record); **F** *inscrire*, *enregistrer*, **S** *apuntar*, *reservar*, **I** *registrare*, *riservare*, **G** (aus)*buchen*, *vormerken*; to make arrangements to stay somewhere, etc, *to book a room in a hotel*, *to book a ticket*

**book-able** *adj* (*book* verb + *-able*; early 20c); that can be booked, or ordered in advance, *law a bookable offence* i.e. a crime when the person responsible can be arrested

**book-bind-er** *n* (*book* + *binder*; late 14c); **F** *relieur/euse*, **S** *encuadernador* m, **I** *rilegatore* m, **G** *Buchbinder* m; one whose job is to fasten printed pages inside a cover, in order to make books

**book-case** *n* (*book* + *case*; early 18c); **F** *bibliothèque* f, **S** *libreria* f, *estante* m para libros, **I** *scaffale* m per libri, *libreria* f, **G** *Bücherschrank* m; shelves for keeping books on, a case or cupboard for books

**book club** *n* an organization that sells books to its members, usually by mail order

**book-end** *n* *usually plural* **F** *serre-livres* m/pl, **S** *sujetalibros* m/pl, **I** *fermalibri* m/pl, **G** *Bücherstütze* f; one of the two supports placed at the end of a row of books

**bookie** *n* *informal* bookmaker

**book-ing** *n* (*book* verb + *-ing*; late 19c); reservation, *the booking of a room*

**book-ish** *adj* (*book* + *-ish*; 18c); said of a person more interested in reading books than in taking part in social activities

**book-keep-er** *n* (*book* + *keeper*; 16c); **F** *comptable* m, **S** *contable* m/f, *tenedor/ora de libros*, **I** *contabile* m/f, **G** *Buchhalter/in*; a person whose job is that of keeping the records of a business

**book-keep-ing** *n* (late 17c); **F** *comptabilité* f, **S** *contabilidad* f, *teneduria de libros*, **I** *contabilità* f, *tenuta f dei registri contabili*, **G** *Buchhaltung* f, *Buchführung* f; the practice of keeping the financial accounts of a company

**book-let** *n* a small book that gives information on particular issues

**book-maker** *n* (19c); a person whose job is to take bets on the results of horse races and to pay out money to those who win

**book-mark**<sup>1</sup> *n* (*book* + *mark*; 19c); **F** *signet* m, **S** *señal* m, *registro m de libro*, **I** *segnalibro* m, **G** *Lesezeichen* n; a strip of paper or plastic that you put between the pages of a book in order to be able to find the page quickly when resuming reading

**book-mark**<sup>2</sup> *v* (see the noun); to put a strip of card or a ribbon in a book between the pages in order to mark a place, *to bookmark a book*

**book-plate** *n* (*book* + *plate*; late 18c); a label that is stuck in a book, bearing the owner's name

**book-sel-ler** *n* (*book* + *seller*; early 16c); **F** *libraire* m, **S** *librero/a*, **I** *libraio/a* m, **G** *Buchhändler/in*; one whose job is to sell books

**book-shop** *n* **F** *librairie* f, **S** *librería* f, **I** *libreria* f, **G** *Buchhandlung* f; a shop where books are sold

**book-store** *n* *AmE* bookshop

**book-stall** *n* *AmE* **news-stand** a small shop where you can buy books at a station, at the airport, at a fair

**book token** *n* a card that you can exchange for books, *he sent me for Christmas a book token for \$25*

**book-worm** *n* *informal* a person who reads a lot

**boom**<sup>1</sup> *v* (of imitative origin, *cp* **G** *bommen*, Dutch *bommen*, *cp* **bomb**; 15c); **F** *gronder*, *retentir*, **S** *hacer estampido*, *tronar*, **I** *risuonare*, *rimbombare*, **G** *einen* (rapiden) *Aufschwung* nehmen, *blühen*; to make a loud, deep sound, *our school of languages is booming*

**boom**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; late 15c); **F** *grondement* m, *retentissement* m, **S** *estampido* m, *trueno* m, **I** *suono* m *cupo*, *rimbombo* m, **G** *Aufschwung* m, *Boom* m; a loud, deep sound, *the boom of the cannon*, in commercial activities the 'boom' is a period of rapid advance, *the business boom*, *the baby boom*

**boom town** *n* a town that suddenly experiences the boom of economic activities

**boom box** *n* *AmE informal* ghetto blaster

**boom-er** *n* one who 'booms' an enterprise, *AmE* **baby boomer**

**boom-er-ang**<sup>1</sup> *n* (from *wo-mur-rang*, the name for this weapon in the language of the aborigines of New South Wales, Australia; late 18c); **F** *boomerang* m, **S** *bumerang* m, **I** *boomerang* m, *bumerang* m, **G** *Bumerang* m, *zurückschlagen* (auf); an Australian missile weapon, made of a curved piece of hard wood, that comes back to the person who threw it

**boom-er-ang**<sup>2</sup> *v* (see the verb); **F** *faire boomerang*, **S** *tener un resultado contraproducente*, **I** *fåre boomerang*, *ottenere un effetto* m *controproducente*, **G** *zurückschlagen* (auf); said of a plan or action that boomerangs, i.e. affects you badly instead of the person it was intended to hit, *his dissolute life will boomerang on his health*

**boon** *n* (OE *bēn* prayer, Old Icelandic *bōn*, ME *bone* benefit, from a proto-Germanic root); **F** *avantage* m, *bienfait* m, **S** *ventaja* f, *beneficio* m, **I** *beneficio* m, **G** *Wohltat* f, *Gefälligkeit* f; sth that is very useful and makes life easier, *the opening of the supermarket will be a boon to the villagers*

**boon** *adj*

**boon companion** *lit* a very close friend

**boon-docks** *n/pl* *AmE informal* **F** *banlieu* f, **S** *periferia* f, *afueras* f/pl, **I** *zòna* f  *rurale*, *periferia* f, **G** *Peripherie* f, *Provinz* f; a place that is a long way from the nearest town, a rural area, outer suburbs

**boon-dog-gle** *AmE slang* (origin unknown; about 1925); an useless or unnecessary work

**boon-ies** *n/pl* *AmE informal* the boon docks

**boor** *n* *old fashioned* (see OF *bovier* herdsman, from L *bōs-bovis*; the forms *bour* and *boor*, 16c, were apparently

borrowed from Dutch *boer* farmer, ModLG *buur*, ModG *Bauer*); **F** rustre m, rustaud m, **S** hombre m grosero, **I** uòmo m grossolàno, zoticóne m, **G** Bauer m, ungehobelter Kerl; a peasant, a rustic person

**boor-ish** *adj* (*boor* + *-ish*; 16c); **F** rustre, grossier, **S** grosero/a, **I** grossolàno/a, **G** ungehobelt, flegelhaft; rustic, having rough manners

**boost**<sup>1</sup> *v* (*AmE*, of unknown origin; early 19c); **F** battage m, soutien m, **S** empujar, hacer publicidad por, **I** spingere vèrso l'alto, sostenére, **G** hochschieben, fördern; raise up, lift up, *to boost one's hopes*

**boost**<sup>2</sup> *n* (see the verb); **F** faire de la réclame ou du battage pour, **S** empuje m, ayuda f, **I** spinta f, incoraggiamento m, **G** Förderung f, Erhöhung f; sth that gives support, confidence, etc, *a boost to the economic recovery*

**boost-er** *n* (*boost* + *-er*; late 19c); **F** propulseur m, **S** impulsador m, **I** sostenitore m, propulsore m, **G** Förderer m, Servomotor m; a person or thing that boosts, *a confidence booster*, *a morale booster*, an extra engine in a spacecraft that boosts its power when taking off, *a booster rocket*

**booster seat** *n* *BrE* also **booster chair**, **booster cushion** a special seat for a little child in a car, to raise the child at a higher level

**boot**<sup>1</sup> *n* (ME *bote*, OF *bote*, MedL *botta*, *bota*, ModF *botte*, of uncertain origin; early 14c); **F** bottine f, botte f, **S** bota f, **I** stivale m, **G** Stiefel m; a kind of shoe that covers the foot and the lower part of the leg

**boot**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; 15c); **F** flanquer des coups de pied à, **S** dar un puntapié a, **I** prèndere a calci, **G** einen Fußtritt geben; to kick somebody with your foot, *to boot the ball*

**boot camp** *n* a camp where young criminals have to do hard physical work

**bootee** *n/pl* a baby's sock worn instead of shoes

**booth** *n* (ME *bothe*, see Old Icelandic *būdh* dwelling, Old Swedish & Old Danish *bōth*, booth, stall, MHG *buode* hut, tent, ModG *Bude* hat; early 13c); **F** baraque f, tente f, **S** puesto m, barraca f, **I** baracca f, bancarèlla f, **G** (Markt)Bude f, (Messe)Stand; a temporary structure covered with canvas, a tent, a stall, *a phone booth*, *a photo booth*

**boot-lace** *n* usually plural a long thin piece of leather used to fasten boots or shoes

**bootleg**<sup>1</sup> *n* (early 17c); trousers that flare at the knee for wearing over boots, *a pair of bootlegs*

**bootleg**<sup>2</sup> *v* to make or sell goods illegally

**bootleg**<sup>3</sup> *adj* *AmE* illegally made or copied, *bootleg software*

**boot-leg-ger** *n* *AmE* (probably from people carrying bottles in their boots, during prohibitionism in America; early 20c); one who makes or sells goods illegally

**boot-leg-ging** *n* the act of making or selling goods illegally

**boot-strap** *n* *informal* to improve your own situation with your hard work, without the help of anybody, *to pull yourself up by your bootstraps*

**booty** *n* (origin unclear, cf OF *butin*, MLG *būte* exchange, barter, Dutch *buyt*, *buet*, ModG *Beute*; 15c); **F** butin m, **S** botín m, presa f, **I** bottino m, prèda f, **G** (Kriegs)Beute f, Raub m; things stolen by soldiers after the victory, *the booty of Napoleon in Italy were mostly art masterpieces*

**booze**<sup>1</sup> *v* *informal* (a variant of ME *bouse*, from Middle Dutch *būsen* drink heavily, related to MLG *būsen*; 18c); **F** boire comme un trou, **S** beber, emborracharse, **I** bére álcol, spècie in lãrghè quantitã, **G** saufen; to drink heavily, *he spends the weekends boozing with his friends*

**booze**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; 18c); **F** boisson f, **S** bebida f, alcohol m, **I** bevãnda f alcòlica, **G** Schnaps f, Sauferei f; alcoholic drink

**boozer** *n* (early 19c); **F** ivrogne m, **S** bebedor m, tomador m, **I** ubriacóne m, **G** Säufer m; someone who drinks heavily

**booze-up** *n* *BrE informal* a party where people drink a lot of alcohol

**boozy** *adj* (*booze* + *-y*; early 16c); drinking a lot of alcohol, *a boozy man*

**bop**<sup>1</sup> *n* *colloquial* (echoic; early 20c); a dance to pop music

**bop**<sup>2</sup> *v* to dance to pop music

**bor-age** *n* (MedL *borrãgo*, OF *bourrace*, probably from LL *burra*; 13c); **F** bourrache f, **S** borraja f, **I** borrãgine f, **G** Borretsch m; a blue, aromatic herb, the genus of plants of the *Boraginaceae*, the common English species being the *Borago officinalis*

**borax** *n* (ME *boras*, borrowed from French *boras*, Anglo-Latin *borax*, Persian *būrah*; 16c as *borax*); **F** borax m, **S** bórax m, **I** borãce m, **G** Borax; the acid borate of sodium, a native salt

**bor-dello** *n* *literary* (superseded by **brothel**, OF *bordel* a cabin, MedL *bordellus*, LL *borda*; late 16c); a place where men can have sex by paying

**bor-der**<sup>1</sup> *n* (ME *bordure*, OF *bordure*, LL *bordatura* edging, cf OHG *bort*, cognate with OE *bord* side; late 14c); **F** bord m, frontière f, **S** borde m, frontera f, **I** bórdò m, frontièra f, **G** Rand, Grenze f; the line that separates two countries, *crossing the border between France and Germany*, *border incident*, *the Borders* the region of Southern Scotland bordering with England, a side, margin, *a decorative lace border*

**bor-der**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; late 14c); **F** border, confiner (avec), **S** confinar con, **I** confinàre con, **G** begrenzen, grenzen an; if an area or state borders with another, it is next to it, *North-Eastern Italy borders with Southern Austria*

**bor-der-land** *n* (*border* + *land*; early 19c); **F** pays frontalier ou limitrophe, **S** zona f fronteriza, **I** zòna f di frontièra o di confine, **G** Grenzgebiet n; the part of a country bordering with another country, *Savoie and Val d'Aoste are borderland between France and Italy*

**bor-der-line**<sup>1</sup> *adj* (*border* n + *line*; 19c); **F** au limite, **S** dudoso/a, incierto/a, **I** (al) limite, al confine, **G** auf oder an e-r Grenze; on the border between a state and another, *a borderline village*, fig. *a borderline case*

**bor-der-line**<sup>2</sup> *n* **F** ligne f de séparation, frontière, **S** línea f divisòria, **I** línea f di frontièra o di confine, **G** Grenzlinie f; a line of demarcation, *the borderline between the USA and Canada*

**bore** *v* past tense of **bear**

**bore**<sup>1</sup> *v* (ME *boren*, OE *borian*, cognate with OHG *borōn* to bore, ModG *bohren*, Old Icelandic *bora*, from Proto-Germanic, cognate with L *forāre* to bore, Gr *φάρος* a plough); **F** forer, percer, **S** perforar, **I** perforãre, **G** (durch)bohren; to make a deep round hole, to pierce, to drill, *to bore through the rock*

**bore**<sup>2</sup> *n* (OE *bor*, cognate with OHG *bora* gimlet, ModG *Bohr*, Old Icelandic *bora* a hole, Swedish *borr*, Danish *bor*); **F** forage m, alesage m, **S** barreno m, perforación f, **I** föro m, **G** Bohrung f; a hole, especially one made by drilling, *a two metres bore*

**bore**<sup>1</sup> *v* (after 1750, of unknown origin; the phrase 'French bore' suggests that the word is of French origin, apparently from *bourrer* to stuff, to satiate); **F** ennuyer, **S** fastidiar, molestar, **I** annoiãre, tediãre, **G** langweilen; *v/t* to make someone feel bored

**bore**<sup>2</sup> *n* (see the verb); **F** personne ennuyeuse, **S** pelmazo m, pesado m, **I** persóna f noiòsa, seccatòre m, **G** Langweiliges oder Lästiges; a fit of boredom (French *ennui*, as the *spleen* was supposed to be English), a boring person

**bored** *adj* said of one who feels impatient because he has no interest in sth, *he is bored with this kind of work*

**bore-dom** *n* (*bore* + *-dom*; 19c); the state of being bored

**bore-hole** *n* a hole made in the ground in order to get water or oil out of the ground

**boring** *adj* (*bore* verb + *-ing*; 15c); that causes boredom, *a boring kind of life*

**born** *adj/v* (OE *boren*, past part. of *geberan*, *beran* to carry, bring forth, see **bear**); **F** naître, né/e, **S** nacer, nato/a, **I** nascere, nàto/a, **G** geboren; **to be born**, to commence one's existence, *he was born in Oklahoma, he was born of Italian parents*, of ideas or of a movement, *the town where the protest movement was born*, having an innate ability, *he was born to be a humanist*

**born-** *suffix* a French-born gentleman, the newborn, the first-born daughter

**born-again** *adj* used to describe someone who has accepted a particular type of Evangelical Christianity, *John is a born-again Christian*

**borne** *adj* carried, endured

**bor-ough** *n* (OE *burg*, OS *burg*, Dutch *burg*, OHG *burug*, ON, Swedish & Danish *borg*, year 1100 *burgh*, OE *burh*, OHG *burg*, Gothic *boürgs* city, from Proto-Germanic *\*burgs*, related to OE *beorg* hill, mound, from Indo-European *bherǵh*: see **barrow** mound; cognate with L *burgus* a castle, fort, Gr *πύργος* tower); **F** conseil m municipal, **S** municipio m, **I** borgo m, distrétto m amministrativo, **G** Stadtteil m, Stadtbezirk m; a part of a city that has a local government, *Brooklin is a borough in New York City, Enfield is one of the Greater London boroughs*

**bor-row** *v* (OE *borgian*, from *borg* pledge, loan, cognate with OHG *borgēn* give surety, **G** *borgen* borrow, Old Icelandic *borga* become surety for; late 13c as *borowen*); **F** emprunter, **S** pedir prestado, adoptar, **I** prendere in prestito, **G** (aus)borgen, (ent)leihen; to get something on loan and return it at a later time, *I borrowed this book from the university library*, fig. *words borrowed from Latin*

**bor-row-er** *n* (*borrow* + *-er*; 15c); **F** emprunteur/euse, **S** el (la) que toma prestado, prestatario/a, **I** chi prende in prestito, **G** Entleiher m, Kreditnehmer m; one who borrows, *this library has four thousand borrowers*

**bor-row-ing** *n* (from *borrow* verb; early 16c); **F** emprunt m, **S** préstamo(s) m/pl, **I** prestito m, **G** Kreditaufnahme f, Anleihe f; the money that a person or a company borrows, *our company has had recourse to heavy borrowing*, fig., *a borrowing from French*

**bor-stal** *n* Brit/E (after Borstal in Kent, where a school was established; early 20c); an institution which was both a prison and a school, to which young criminals were sent; now 'detention centres' and 'youth custody centres'

**bosom** *n* (OE *bōsm*, ME *bosum*, OS *bōsom*, OHG *buosam* breast; ModG *Busen*); **F** poitrine f, seins m/pl (of a woman), **S** seno m, pecho m, **I** pètto m, séno m, grémbo m, **G** Busen m, Brust f; breast, especially that of a woman, *Joan's fine bosom*, fig. *to live in the bosom of one's own family*

**bosom friend** *n* AmE *bosom buddy*, a very close friend

**boss**<sup>1</sup> *n* (Dutch *baas* master, apparently related to Germanic base female cousin, OHG *basa* aunt; 17c); **F** patron/onne, **S** jefe m, patrón m, **I** càpo m, padrón m, **G** Chef m, Vorgesetzter m; originally AmE, equivalent of master, an employer of labour, a business manager, now in general use in BrE, *the boss of our shop*

**boss**<sup>2</sup> *verb* informal to keep telling people what to do, *he always bosses people around him*

**boss**<sup>3</sup> *n* (ME *boce*, *bos*, OF *boce*, Old Provençal *bossa* ball, VL *\*bottia*, It *bozza*; in ME *boss* and *botch* are partly synonymous; 14c); **F** protubérance f, **S** protuberancia f, **I** protuberanza f, *bözza* f, **G** Beule f, Buckel m; a protuberance on the body of an animal or plant, *a boss in the tree*

**bossy** *adj* from **boss**<sup>1</sup> said of one who keeps telling people what to do, *stop being bossy with me!*

**bot-an-ic(al)** *adj* (**F** *botanique*, Gr *βοτανικός* of herbs, from *βοτάνη* pasture, herb); **F** botanique, **S** botánico/a, **I** botánico/a, **G** botanisch; relating to the science of botany

**botanic(al) garden** *n* **F** jardin m botanique, **S** jardín m botánico, **I** giardino m botánico, **G** botanischer Garten; a garden in which exotic plants are cultivated for scientific and educational purposes

**bot-an-ist** *n* (**F** *botaniste*, see suffix *-ist*; 17c, earlier **botanic**); **F** botaniste m/f, **S** botánico/a, botanista m/f, **I** botánico/f, **G** Botaniker m; one whose job is to study plants

**bot-any** *n* (from *botanic*, *botanical*, on the analogy of 'history', 'historic', 'historical', etc; late 17c); **F** botanique f, **S** botánica f, **I** botánica, **G** Botanik f; the scientific study of plants

**botch**<sup>1</sup> *v* *coll* (of uncertain origin, probably onomatopoeic; early 16c); **F** bousiller, louper, **S** chapucear, chafullar, **I** abborracciare, pasticciare, **G** zs-schustern, pfuschen; to do sth unskillfully, to repair sth carelessly, *a botched attempt*

**botch**<sup>2</sup> *n* (early 17c); **F** travail m mal fait ou busillé, **S** chapuza f, **I** lavoro mal fatto, abborracciato, **G** Flickwerk n, Pfscharbeit f; sth done carelessly or unskillfully

**both** *adj/pron* (OE *bāthe*, cognate with OS *bēthe*, OHG *beide*, *bēde*, cf L *ambo* both, Gr *ἀμφω*); **F** tous/tes les deux, l'un/e et l'autre, **S** ambos, los dos, **I** entràmbi, **G** beide, beides; the two, the one as well the other, *both the brothers are engineers, they are both engineers, both of them are engineers*

**bother**<sup>1</sup> *v* (first appeared in Irish authors early in 18c, cf Irish *bodar* deaf, confused, Gaelic *bodhar* deaf, *bodhair* to deafen; early 18c); **F** ennuyer, s'ennuyer, déranger **S** molestar, fastidiar, preocuparse por, **I** infastidire, infastidirsi, importunare, **G** belästigen, sich sorgen (um); to give trouble, to annoy, *he doesn't bother anybody*, to make an effort towards doing sth, *he did not bother to give me any answer*, to worry, *this problem bothers me*

**bother**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; early 18c); **F** ennuy m, **S** molestia f, **I** molèstia f, fastidio m, **G** Plage f, Mühe f, trouble, difficulty, *this doesn't give me any bother*

**bother**<sup>3</sup> *interj* old fashioned, used when you are annoyed about sth, *bother! the wheel of the car is soft!*

**bother-some** *adj* (*bother* + *-some*; early 19c); **F** importun/e, gênant/e, **S** molesto/a, **I** molèsto/a, fastidióso/a, **G** lästig, störend; troublesome, tiresome, *bothersome questions, bothersome wind*

**bothy** *Scottish* (etymology unknown, but see Irish and Gaelic *both* hut, diminutive of *bothan*; 18c); a huth or cottage in Scotland used as temporary accommodation, a furnished dwelling for farm workers

**bot-tle**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OF *bouteille*, MedL *butticula*, *dimin.* of LL *buttis* vessel, hence *butler*; 14c); **F** bouteille f, flacon m, **S** botella f, **I** bottiglia f, **G** Flasche f; a glass or plastic container used for storing liquids, *a bottle of red wine, a milk bottle*

**bot-tle**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; early 17c); **F** mettre en bouteilles, **S** embotellar, **I** imbottigliare, **G** in Flaschen abfüllen; to store a liquid in a bottle, *to bottle the wine*

**bottle bank** *n* a container in the street where you put empty bottles so that the glass can be recycled

**bottle-feed** *v* to feed a baby from a bottle rather than from his mother's breast

**bottle-green** *n* a very dark green colour

**bottle-neck** *n* (*bottle* + *neck*; early 20c); a place in the street where the traffic cannot easily pass, a narrow entrance in a road

**bottle-opener** *n* **F** ouvre-bouteille *m*, **S** abrebotellas *m*, **I** apri-bottiglie *m*, **G** Flaschenöffner *m*; a device to open a bottle

**bot·tom**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *botm*, *bothem* lowest part, ME *butme*, OS *bodom*, OHG *bodam*, MHG & Dutch *boden*, ModG *Boden*, cf Gr *πυθμήν* bottom, depth, L *fundus*); **F** bas *m*, fond *m*, **S** fondo *m*, **I** fōndo *m*, **G** Unterseite *f*, Boden *m*, *fig.* Grundlage *f*; the lowest part of anything, *the bottom of the dish*, *fig. the bottom of the class*, *from the bottom of my heart*

**bottom**<sup>2</sup> *v phr* (from the noun; 16c); **F** mettre un siège *m à* (*une chaise*), (*of ship*) toucher le fond, **S** poner fondo o asiento *a*, llegar el fondo *de*, **I** mētere (o fāre) il fōndo *a*, toccāre il fōndo, **G** mit e-m Boden *od.* Sitz versehen, ergründen; to provide with a bottom, *to bottom the chair*, said of a submarine, *the submarine bottomed on deep waters*; **to bottom out** *phr v*, said of a situation that stops getting worse, before it starts improving, *the recession is apparently bottoming out*

**bottom**<sup>3</sup> *adj* (from use of noun; 12c); **F** dernier/ère, **S** más bajo/a, último/a, **I** último, in fōndo, **G** unterst, letzt; lowest, last, *the bottom drawer*, *the bottom end of the street*

**bottom feeder** *n informal* a fish that feeds on material drifting to the bottom of a body of water, a person who earns money by taking advantage of bad things that happen to other people

**bot·tom·less** *adj* (*bottom* + *-less*; early 14c); **F** sans fond, **S** sin fondo, **I** sēnza fōndo, **G** bodenlos, unergründlich; extremely deep, having no bottom, *fig. my finances are far from being a bottomless pit*

**bottom 'line** *n* the most important thing you make or rely upon, *the bottom line is that we shall get for the book no less than \$10,000*

**botu·lism** *n* (from G *Botulismus*, L *botulus* sausage, from the shape of the bacterium; 19c); **F** botulisme *m*, **S** botulismo *m*, **I** botulismo *m*, **G** Botulismus *m*; a serious food poisoning, caused by a bacteria toxin commonly found in imperfectly preserved meat

**bou·doir** *n* (**F** *boudoir*, from *bouder* to sulk, be discontented; late 18c); **F** boudoir *m*, **S** tocador *m*, **I** boudoir *m*, salottino *m* privato, **G** Boudoir *n*; a woman's private sitting room

**bouf·fant** *adj* (**F** *bouffant*; late 19c); **F** (*of hair*) gonflant, (*of skirts*) bouffant/e, **S** crepado/a, **I** gónfio/a, vaporoso/a, **G** duftig(-es) Haar; a style in which a person's hair is arranged in a high rounded shape

**bou·gain·vil·lea** *n* (named after the French navigator Louis de Bougainville; 19c); **F** bougainvillée *f*, **S** buganvilla *f*, **I** buganvillea *f*, **G** Bouganvillea *f*; genus of tropical plants with red or purple flowers

**bough** *n* (OE *bōg*, *boog* bough, cognate with OHG *buog* shoulder, Gr *πῆχυς* forearm; late 14c); **F** branche *f*, rameau *m*, **S** rama *f*, **I** rāmo *m*, **G** Zweig *m*; a branch of a tree, *Sir James Fraser's 'The Golden Bough'*

**bought** past tense and past part. of **to buy**

**bouil·lon** *n* (French, from *bouillir* to boil; 17c); **F** bouillon *m*, consommé *m*, **S** caldo *m*, **I** bròdo *m*, **G** Fleischbrühe *f*, Bouillon *f*; a soup usually made from beef or chicken meat

**boul·der** *n* also **erratic block** (ME *boulderston*, cp Sw *bullersten* large stone in a stream causing the water to make noise; 14c); **F** (gros) bloc *m* de pierre, **S** canto *m* rodado, **I** ciòtolo *m*, māsso *m* erràtico, **G** Fels-, Geröllblock *m*, *geol* erratic Block; large rock that has been rounded by weathering and abrasion

**boule·vard** *n abbr Blvd* (French, apparently from a Teutonic word, MLG *bolwerk*, Middle Dutch *bolwark*, *bolwerk*, G *Bollwerk*, see **bulwark**; 18c); **F** boulevard *m*, **S** bulevar *m*, **I** boulevard *m*, viāle *m*, **G** Boulevard *m*; a broad

avenue, usually flanked by trees, *Boulevard St Michel in Paris*, *Sunset Boulevard*

**bounce**<sup>1</sup> *vt/i* (ME *buncin*, *bonchen*, extended to actions producing a noise; apparently of imitative origin, see Dutch *bons* a thump, LG *bunsen*; early 13c); **F** rebondir, **S** (re)botar, **I** (far) rimbalzàre, **G** springen, (auf)springen lassen; *intr*, said of a ball, to jump back from a solid surface, *the ball bounced up and down on the surface*, *tr/i* said of an e.mail message, to be returned to the sender, *the e.mail bounced back*, said of a cheque which is returned because there is not enough money in the account, *the cheque bounced*, *the bank bounced the cheque*; **bounce back** *phr verb* become healthy or successful after sth bad has happened, *after the illness he seems to be bouncing back quickly*

**bounce**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; early 16c); **F** rebond *m*, rebondissement *m*, **S** (re)bote *m*, **I** rimbälzo *m*, **G** Sprung *m*; the action of bouncing, *the bounce of the ball on the surface*, *fig. this spray gives your hair a fresh bounce*; **on the bounce**, *she is again on the bounce*

**boun·cer** *n coll* (*bounce* verb + *-er*; 18c); **F** videur *m*, **S** forzudo/a *m*, gorila *m*, **I** gorilla *m*, buttafuòri *m*, **G** Angeber *m*; one whose job is that of standing at the door of a club, and stop unwanted people from entering

**boun·cing** *adj* (*bounce* verb + *-ing*; late 16c); **F** rebondissant/e, **S** robusto/a, fuerte, **I** vigoroso/a, robùsto, **G** stramm, lebhaft; a bouncing young man

**bouncy** *adj* (*bounce* verb + *-y*; early 20c); able to bounce well, *a bouncy ball*, (said of a person) confident and energetic, *a bouncy man*

**bound**<sup>1</sup> *adj* not before noun (early 14c as *bounde*, middle 15c as *bound*, shortened from *bounden*, past participle of **bind**); **F** être lié par, **S** estar seguro de, **I** obbligato/a, **G** zwangsläufig etwas tun müssen, verpflichtet sein; to be bound to, compelled, *he is bound by his duties towards his family*

**bound**<sup>2</sup> *v* (MF *bondir* to rebound, OF *bondir* make a resounding noise, LL *bombitāre*, freq. form of L *bombīre* to buzz, from *bombus* a deep sound, a booming; late 16c); **F** bond *m*, saut *m*, **S** saltar, **I** saltāre, balzàre, **G** (hoch)springen; leap, spring (bound up, towards, across, etc), *the dog was bounding across the prey*

**bound**<sup>3</sup> *n literary* **F** bond *m*, saut *m*, **S** salto *m*, **I** sàlto *m*, **G** Sprung *m*, Satz *m*; a long or high jump, a bounce, *the bound of the tiger over the enclosure*

**bound**<sup>4</sup> *n* usually **bounds** boundary, limit (early 14c as *bounde* boundary marker, MedL *bunda*, see OF *bodne*, *bonne* boundary stone; late 14c as **bound**); **F** frontière, borne *f*, bornage *m*, **S** límite *m*, **I** limite *m*, confine *m*, **G** Grenze *f*, Bereich *m*; a landmark indicating the limit of an estate or territory, *the stone indicates the bound between the two properties*, *fig. beyond the bounds of reason*

**bound**<sup>5</sup> *v* **F** limiter, délimiter, **S** limitar, **I** delimitare, confināre con, **G** abgrenzen, beschränken; to set boundaries, to limit, to enclose, *the farm was bounded by a fence*

**-bound**<sup>6</sup> *suffix*, e.g. *strike-bound airport*, *a duty-bound man*

**bound·ary** *n* (*bound* *n* + *-ary*; early 17c); **F** limite *f*, frontière *f*, **S** límite *m*, **I** confine *m*, **G** Grenze *f*, Grenzlinie *f*; the official line that divides a country from another, *national boundaries*, *the Alps are the natural boundary between Italy and Central Europe*

**bound·en** *adj old fash your bounden duty*, something you should do for moral reasons

**bound·less** *adj* (*bound* + *-less*; late 16c); **F** sans bornes, illimité, **S** ilimitado/a, **I** sēnza limiti, illimitato/a, **G** grenzenlos, unbegrenzt; without limits, having no bounds, *boundless ambition*

**boun·teous** *adj lit* (OF *bontif*, *bontive*, benevolent, from *bonté* goodness, see **bounty**, ME *bounteous*; 14c); **F**

abondant/e, génereux/euse, **S** abundante, generoso, **I** abbondante, generoso/a, **G** freigebig; full of goodness, very generous, *a bounteous reward*

**boun-ti-ful** *adj* (*bounty* + *-ful*; early 16c); abounding in, more than enough, *bountiful harvest*

**bounty** *n* (ME *bunte*, *bounte*, A-F *bunté*, OF *bonté*, L *bonit-ātem*, nominative *bonitas* benevolence, generosity); **F** indemnité *f*, générosité *f*, **S**munificencia *f*, premio *m* de enganche, **I** ricompensa *f*, tàglia *f*, **G** Freigebigkeit *f*; a reward given, especially by authorities, to kill or capture dangerous criminals, *bounty killer*, *lit* generosity

**bou-quet** *n* (F *bouquet* 'little wood', OF *boschet*, *dim* of *bois* forest, MedL *boscus*, see OHG *bosc*, *busk*; 18c); **F** bouquet *m*, **S** ramo *m*, ramillete *m*, **I** bouquet *m*, mazzo *m* di fióri, **G** Bukett *n*, Blume *f*; a bunch of flowers

**bou-quet garni** *n* a bunch of herbs, used in cooking

**bour-bon** *n* (named after the Bourbon Royal Family; early 20c); *Bourbon biscuit*, a type of biscuit

**bour-geois** *n/adj* (MF *bourgeois*, OF *burgeis*, from LL *burgensis*, L *burgus*, see **borough**; 16c); **F** bourgeois *m*, **S** burgúes/esa, **I** borghése, **G** Bourgeois *m*; a member of the middle class, especially regarded as politically conservative

**bour-geoisie** *n* (from French *bourgeoisie*; early 18c); **F** bourgeoisie *f*, **S** burguesia *f*, **I** borghesia *f*, **G** Bürgertum *n*; the middle class, *the eighteenth-century bourgeoisie*

**bout** *n* (apparently a variant of obsolete *bowt* a curve, about 1400 as *bought*, see **byht** a bend; late 16c); **F** tour *m*, (*of drinking*) *soûlerie* *f*, **S** turno *m*, (*of drinking*) *juerga* *f* de borrachera, **I** gära *f*, *accèsso* *m*, **G** Arbeitsgang *m*, *Attacke* *f*; a short period of intense activity, especially sth bad, *a drinking bout*, *a bout of madness*, a short period of time during which you suffer from an illness, *a bout of depression*, *of influenza*, *of sickness*

**bou-tique** *n* (F *boutique*, earlier *bouticle*, Old Provençal *botica*, an adaptation of L *apothēca*, Gr *ἀποθήκη* magazine, store-house; 18c); a shop that sells fashionable clothes

**bou-ton-nière** *n* (French; 19c); *AmE*, *BrE* **buttonhole** see

**bo-vine** *adj* (French *bovin*, LL *bovinus*, from *bos-ovis* cow; early 19c); **F** bovin/ine, **S** bovino/a, **I** bovino/a, **G** Ochsen-, Rind-; belonging or related to cattle, *bovine meat*, *derogatory* said of a person, *a bovine appearance*

**bow**<sup>1</sup> *v* (OE *būgan*, ME *bo(u)wen*, OHG *biogan*, ModG *biegen*, see L *fugēre* to run away, Gr *φεύγειν* flee, take flight); **F** s'incliner, **S** inclinar, inclinarse, **I** inchinarsi, *fāre un inchino* *m*, *piegāre*, **G** beugen, sich verbeugen; *intr use*, to incline your head and your body as a sign of respect, to assume a bent position, to bend or make sth bend

**bow**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from **bow** verb; 17c); **F** salut *m*, révérence *f*, **S** inclinación *f*, reverencia *f*, **I** inchino *m*, **G** Verbeugung *f*, Verneigung *f*; an act of bending your head, *to bow one's head*

**bow**<sup>3</sup> *n* (OE *boga* bent, ME *bowe*, Old Frisian *boga*, Dutch boog, MHG *boge*, ModG *Bogen*); **F** arc *m*, **S** arco *m*, **I** arco *m*, **G** (Schieß)Bogen, Bogen *m*; a weapon used for shooting arrows, *bows and arrows*

**bow**<sup>4</sup> *v* **F** courber, gouverner l'archet, **S** tocar con arco, **I** suonare uno strumento *m* ad arco, **G** den Bogen führen; to use a bow to play a musical instrument

**bow**<sup>5</sup> *n* (from a Low German source, cp Low German *būg*, Middle Dutch *boech*, Modern Dutch *boeg*, all meaning 'bow of a ship', cognate with Old English *bōg* shoulder, see **ough**; early 17c); **F** avant *m*, étrave *f*, proue *f*, **S** proa *f*, **I** prua *f*, prora *f*, **G** Bug *m*; forward part of a ship

**bowd-ler-ize** *v* (from Thomas Bowdler, who published, in 1818, an edition of Shakespeare designed for 'family reading'); **F** expurger (une oeuvre littéraire), **S** expurgar (un escrito), **I** espurgare, **G** (Büchern) säubern; remove passages

from a book on moral grounds, to expurgate an edition, especially in a distorting and unnecessary way

**bowel** *n* (ME *buel*, *bouel*, OF *bouel*, LL *botellus* sausage, diminutive of *botūlus* a sausage; 14c); **F** intestin *m*, **S** intestino *m*, intestinos *m/pl*, **I** intestino *m*, viscere *f/pl*, **G** Darm *m*, Gedärm *n*; the tube that carries the waste from the stomach

**bower** *n* (OE *būr* dwelling, related to OE *būan* dwell, cognate with OHG *būr* dwelling, Old Icelandic *būa* chamber, Gothic *bauan* dwell, live, ModG *Bauer*, in place-names *-euren*, eg *Benediktbeuren* dwelling of the Benediktines); a place in a garden, enclosed and shaded by trees and plants, *lit* a lady's private boudoir

**bowl**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *bolla*, Middle Dutch *bolle*, Dutch *bol*, cognate OHG *bolla*; 15c as *bowle*); **F** bol *m*, coupe *f*, **S** escudilla *f*, tazón *m*, **I** ciótola *f*, scodèlla *f*, **G** Napf *m*, Schale *f*; a round dish for holding liquids, distinguished from the cup, which is rather deep than wide; also distinguished from a *basin*, eg the ordinary wash-hand basin; 'the ordinary small earthenware vessels, used for porridge, soup, milk, sugar, etc., which are historically *bowls*, and are so called in Scotland and in U.S., are always called in the south-east of England, and hence, usually in literary English, *basins*' (OED), *a bowl of soup*

**bowl**<sup>2</sup> *n* (F *boule*, ME *bowle*, MF *boule*, Gallo-Romance *bullā* ball, L *bullā* bubble; 15c); **F** boule *f*, **S** bola *f*, bocha *f*, **I** bòccia *f*, **G** Kugel *m*, Spielkugel *m*; a heavy wooden ball for rolling used in bowling, *the captain threw the ball*

**bowl**<sup>3</sup> *v* (MedL *bolare*, from *bolus*, cf Modern French *bouler*, from *boule*); **F** jouer aux boules, **S** arrojar, jugar a las bochas, **I** giocare a bòcche (lassen), Bowling spielen; play at bowls, *they spend the afternoons bowling*

**bow-legs** *n* legs that curve outwards at the knees, *adj* bow-legged

**bowler**<sup>1</sup> *n* (*bowler* verb + *er*; late 15c); in cricket, a player who throws the ball at a batsman, a person who plays bowls

**bowler**<sup>2</sup> *n* **bowler hat**, *AmE* **derby**, a black hat with a curved brim and round top, worn by businessmen in the past

**bowling** *n* (*bowl* verb + *-ing*; early 16c); **F** jeu *m* de boules, **S** bolos *m/pl*, **I** giòco *m* delle bòcce, **G** Bowling *n*; the game of bowls

**bowling alley** *n* a building where people go bowling

**bowling green** *n* a heavy ball you use in the game of bowling

**bow-man** *n* *old fash*, in the past a soldier whose weapon was a bow, an archer

**bow tie** a man's tie that is tied in the shape of a bow, worn especially on formal occasions

**bow window** *n* a bay window

**bow-vow** *interj* used by children to imitate the dog's bark

**box**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *box*, L *pyxis*, also *puxis*, a small box or casket, MedL *buxis* box, Gr *πυξίς*; the Teutonic forms OHG *buhsa*, MHG *buhse*, are apparently from L or MedL); **F** caisse *f*, coffre *f*, boîte *f*, **S** caja *f*, cofre *m*, **I** scàtola *f*, **G** Kasten *m*, Koffer *m*; a case or receptacle usually having a lid

**box**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; 15c); **F** emboîter, encaisser, **S** encajonar, poner en una caja, **I** inscatolàre, mèttere in (una) scàtola, **G** in Schachtlen legen, packen; to put in a box, *to box the collection of books*

**box**<sup>3</sup> *n* (origin unclear, nevertheless cp Middle Dutch *bōke*, MHG *buc*, Danish *bask*, all meaning 'blow'; early 14c); **F** gifle *f*, taloche *f*, **S** cachete *m*, **I** schiàffo *m*, ceffòne *m*, **G** Schlag *m* mit der Hand; a slap, a punch, *he got a box on the right ear*

**box**<sup>4</sup> *v* (of unclear origin; Modern Dutch *boxen*, LG *ba(a)xen*, G *baxen*, Danish *baxe*, are apparently all from English; the modern sense of 'fighting with the fists' appeared in 16c); **F** gifler, boxer, **S** boxear, dar un cachete a uno, **I** fāre a pugni, boxare, **G** j-n ohrfeigen, boxen; to fight in the sport of boxing

**box**<sup>5</sup> *n* (OE *box*, L *buxus* a box-tree, an object made of boxwood, Gr *πύξου*); **F** buis m, **S** boj m, **I** bòsso m, **G** Buchsbaum(holz) m; a genus of small evergreen trees or shrubs, the Common or Evergreen Box-tree, much used in ornamental gardening

**box-car** *n* *AmE* a closed railway carriage, used for carrying goods

**boxed** *adj* put and sold in a box, *a boxed set of films*

**boxer** *n* (*box* verb + *-er*; 19c); **F** boxeur m, **S** boxeador m, **I** pùgile, **G** Boxer m; one who boxes, *a heavyweight boxer*, a large dog with short brown hair

**boxer shorts** *n* underwear for men

**box-ful** *n* the amount a box can hold

**box-ing** *n* (from *box* verb&n; early 18c in the sense of fighting with fists); **F** boxe f, **S** boxeo m, **I** pugilato m, **G** Boxkampf m; the sport of fighting with the fists, *a boxing champion*

**Box-ing Day** *n* in Great Britain 26 December, so called from the tradition of giving a 'Christmas box' to the poor on that day

**box junction** *n* *UK* a place marked with yellow lines where two roads cross each other, and where you cannot stop

**box number** *n* an address consisting of a PO box

**box office** *n* the place in a theatre or cinema where you buy tickets

**box-room** *n* a room in a house for storing things in

**box-wood** *n* the hard wood of the box

**boy** *n* (ME *boi*, *boy*, of obscure origin; cf Frisian *boi*, *boy*, young man, MLG *bove*, *boy*, Middle Dutch *boef* *boy*, MHG *buobe*, Mod dialectal German *Bube*); **F** garçon m, **S** niño m, chico m, **I** ragazzo m, **G** Knabe m, Junge m; a young male person, *a ten year-old boy*, a young son, *I have a boy and a girl*

**boy-cott**<sup>1</sup> *v* (from Captain Boycott, an Irish landlord who refused to lower rents and was 'boycotted', in the autumn of 1880, by the Irish land league); **F** boycotter, **S** boicotear, **I** boicottare, **G** boykottieren; refuse to deal with a person, a company, etc, as a protest against it

**boy-cott**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; late 19c); **F** boycottage m, **S** boicoteo m, **I** boicottaggio m, **G** Boykott n; the act of boycotting a person or a company

**boy-friend** *n* **F** (petit) ami m, **S** amigo m, amiguito m, **I** amichétto/a, fidanzato/a, **G** Freund m; a man a girl/woman has a sentimental relationship with

**boy-hood** *n* (*boy* + *-hood*; 18c); **F** enfance f, première jeunesse f, **S** juventud f, **I** infanzia f, fanciullézza f, **G** Jugend f, Knabenalter n; the time when one is a boy

**boy-ish** *adj* (*boy* + *-ish*; 16c); **F** d'enfant, jeune, **S** juvenil, muchachil, **I** puerile, fanciullésco, **G** jungenhaf, knabenhaft; one who looks or behaves like a boy, *John's boyish behaviour*

**Boy Scout** *n* *AmE* a boy who is a member of the Scouts

**bozo** *n* *slang AmE* (20c, of unknown origin, but see *It buzzurro*, 1808); a silly person

**Br.**, also **Br** in *BrE* abbreviation of **brother**, also of **British**

**bra** *n* formal **brassière**, also **brassiere** (French, from *bras* arm, L *brachium*; 20c); **F** soutien-gorge m, **S** sostén m, **I** reggipétto m, reggiséno m, **G** Büstenhalter m; an undergarment that a woman wears to support her breasts

**brace**<sup>1</sup> *n* (from OF *brace* arms, L *brac(c)hia*, pl of *bracchium* arm, Gr *βραχίον* arm, cognate with L *brevis*; early 14c); **F** attache f, lien m, **S** refuerzo m, abrazadera f, **I** grappa f, gancio m, **G** (Zahn)Klammer f, Anker m; a device that holds things together or supports, *a brace for the teeth*, *a brace for her sore back*

**brace**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from OF *bracier* embrace; 14c); **F** ancrer, fortifier, **S** asegurar, reforzar, **I** sostenére, rinforzare, **G** versteifen, stützen, verankern; support sth to prevent it from falling, *the*

*roof has been braced with a support*, to prepare yourself for sth unpleasant that is going to happen, **brace yourself for sth**, *Katherine braced herself for the argument with the husband*

**brace-let** *n* (OF *bracelet*, *dimin* of **brace**; 15c); **F** bracelet m, **S** brazalete m, pulsera f, **I** braccialétto m, **G** Armband n; a golden or silver ring that you wear around your wrist

**bracing** *adj* (from *brace* verb; early 16c); **F** fortifiant/e, tonifiant/e, **S** vigorizante, tónico/a, **I** tonificànte, rinforzànte, **G** stärkend, kräftigend; (especially of the weather) making you feel more energetic because it is fresh, *a bracing breeze*

**bracken** *n* (ME *brake*, from a Scandinavian source, see Swedish *bräken* fern, Danish *bregne*, Icelandic *burkni* fern; 14c); **F** fougère à l'aigle, **S** helecho m, **I** fêlce f, **G** Farn m, Farnkraut n; a wild plant, that is a kind of fern; it grows especially on moorland areas and turns brown in the autumn, a dense growth of this, *we found our way through the bracken*

**bracket**<sup>1</sup> *n* (see MF *braguet*, *dimin* of *brague* breeches, Provençal *braga*, L *bracae* breeches, trousers, from Gaulish, from a Germanic source; 16c); **F** parenthèse f, console f, tranche f (de revenu), **S** paréntesis m/pl, soporte m, clase f, categoria f, **I** paréntesi f, ménsola f di sostégno, classe f, categoria f, **G** Klammer f, Konsole f, Träger m; a pair of symbols used to group together or enclose words, **angle brackets**, **square brackets**, *the last sentence must be in round/square brackets*, a piece of metal or plastic, L-shaped, fastened to a wall to hold a shelf, etc, *two iron brackets hold the shelf*, a particular range of age, income, etc, *to be in the upper/lower income bracket*, *the 61-65 age bracket*

**bracket**<sup>2</sup> *v* (verb use of the noun; 19c); **F** mettre entre parenthèses, réunir (*des mots*), associer les noms de (*deux personnes*), **S** poner entre paréntesis, agrupar, asegurar con ménsulas, **I** mèttere tra paréntesi, raggruppare, sostenére con ménsole, **G** einklammern, in einer Gruppe einordnen, auf gleiche Stufe stellen; to put words between brackets, *to bracket a sentence*, to put two or more people in the same class, *he has been bracketed with the highest rate taxpayers*, to support a beam etc with brackets, *the wall was bracketed for reasons of security*

**brack-ish** *adj* (from earlier English *brack*, Middle Dutch and Dutch *brak* brackish; 16c); **F** (eau) saumâtre, **S** salobre, **I** salmàstro/a, **G** brackig; said of water, slightly salty and not pure, *brackish water*, *brackish lagoon*

**brae** *n* *Scottish and Northern* (ON *bra*, OE *braew* eyelid, OHG *brāva*, G *Braue*; 14c); **F** pente f, côte f, **S** pendiente f, ladera f de monte, **I** pendio m, declivio m, **G** Abhang m, Böschung f; a slope on a hill, the sloping bank bounding a river or a loch

**Prahleri** f; a boastful talk, a card game similar to poker

**brag**<sup>1</sup> *v* (see Gaulish or Celtic *brāca*, Provençal *braga* to wear rich clothes, but cf Old Icelandic *bragr* the best, the boast or toast of anything, and *brak* creaking noise; 1378.); **F** se vanter, hâbler, **S** fanfarronear, jactarse de, **I** boriârsi, vanagloriârsi, **G** prahlen (mit); to boast, *to brag with one's own achievements*

**brag**<sup>1</sup> *n* (from the verb; 1387); **F** vantardise f, hâblerie f, **S** fanfarronada f, bravata f, **I** vanteria f, millanteria f, **G** Prahleri f; a boastful talk, a card game similar to poker

**brag-gart** *n* *old fash* (F *bragard* vain, from *braguer* to brag; 16c); **F** vantard/arde, **S** fanfarrón m, jactancioso m, **I** millantatóre m, vanagloriósio/a, **G** Prahler m; someone who brags

**Brah-man**, **Brahmin** *n* (Sanskrit *Brahmana-s*, *brahmàn* sacrifice priest, Gr *Βραχμανης*, L *Brachmani*; 15c); **F** brahmane m/f, intellectuel/elle, **S** Brahmán/ana, **I** brahmàno m, bramino m, *fig.* persòna dotàta di cultùra, **G** Brahman m,

gebildete, kultivierte Person; someone of the highest rank in the Hindu caste, who traditionally becomes priest in their religion, a person who has a lot of influence in society, especially in New England, *a Boston Brahmin*

**braid**<sup>1</sup> *v* (OE *bregdan* to weave, cognate with OS *bregdan*, OHG *brettan* draw (a sword), Old Icelandic *bregdha* move quickly, draw (a weapon), from Proto-Germanic); **F** tresse f, natte f, **S** trenza f, galón m, **I** tréccia f, gallóne, **G** flechten; to twist (thread or hair) together, *Joan braided her hair*, to decorate sth with braid, *to braid a uniform*

**braid**<sup>2</sup> *n* (some meanings are developed from *breiden* verb, others from OE *brægd* craft, fraud, which is cognate with Old Icelandic *bragd* deed, trick); **F** tresser, natter, **S** trenzar, galonear, **I** intrecciare, **G** (Haar)Flechte f, Tresse f; a thin, coloured rope, mainly made from golden or silver threads twisted together, that is used as a decoration in military uniforms, in furniture, etc, *a hat trimmed with blue braid*

**braille** *n* (after Louis Braille, who invented the system; 19c); a system of printing for the blind

**brain**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *braegen*, cognate with Old Frisian *brein* brain, MLG *bregen* brain; the word is not found in Scandinavian or Gothic, but cf Greek *βρέγμα* front part of the head; late 12c); **F** cerveau m, **S** cerebro m, **I** cervello m, **G** Gehirn n; the organ inside the head that controls the movements and the thoughts, *brain damage*, fig. intelligence, *he has no brain*, persons, *the best brains leave our country to join the American research laboratories*

**brain**<sup>2</sup> *v informal* (late 14c); to hit someone on the brain

**brain-child** *n* a clever idea, *the project was John's brainchild*

**brain damage** *n* a damage to the brain caused by an accident

**brain-dead** *adj* brain-dead is one who has a serious damage to the brain, because of an accident

**brain death** *n* the condition in which a person's brain stops working

**brain drain** *n informal* a situation in which the scientists from one nation go to another one, to improve their working conditions, *the brain drain from Italy towards the US*

**brain-less** *adj informal* (*brain* + *-less*; 1440 as *braynles*); extremely stupid

**brain-power** *n* the combined intelligence of people in one nation, *the scientific brainpower of this nation*

**brain-storm** *n* a sudden inability to think clearly, *I had a brainstorm in the exams and answered confusedly all the questions*

**brain-storm-ing** *n AmE* the practice of making a group of people think together, to solve a problem, *a brainstorming session*

**brain-teaser** *n* **F** énigme f, **S** rompecabezas m, **I** indovinello m, rëbus m, **G** Rätsel n; a problem that you try to solve for fun, *the Sunday newspaper usually publish brainteasers*

**brain-wash** *v* **F** soumettre (*qn*) à un lavage de cerveau, **S** hacer un lavado de cerebro, **I** sottoporre a un lavaggio del cervello, **G** Gehirnwäsche unterziehen; to make one do or believe something by continually repeating it, *he has been brainwashed into adopting the views of silly politicians*

**brain-washing** *n AmE* (*brain* n + *washing* vbl noun; 20c); **F** lavage m de cerveau, **S** lavado m de cerebro, **I** lavaggio del cervello, **G** Gehirnwäsche f; to forceful imposition of beliefs on the brain of people using coercive methods, the forceful elimination from a person's mind of all established ideas

**brain-wave** *n informal* a sudden clever idea, *I was confused, then I had a brainwave and found a solution to the problem*

**brainy** *adj informal* very intelligent

**braise** *v* (**F** *braiser*, from *braise* hot charcoal; late 18c); **F** braiser, cuire à l'étouffée, **S** cocer a fuego lento en una vasija bien tapada, **I** cuocere in stufato, **G** schmoren; cook slowly in a tightly-closed pan, the meat being surrounded with slices of bacon, herbs etc, *braised beef*

**brake**<sup>1</sup> *n* (apparently from earlier *brake* a bridle or curb, MLG *brake*, related to Middle Dutch *breken* to break, cognate with OE *brecan* to break; alternatively it could be borrowed from OF *brac*, *bras* arm, L *bracchium*; 18c); **F** frein m, **S** freno m, **I** frèno m, **G** Bremse f; a device that stops or slows a car, *when driving, put on the brake at the right moment*, fig. *the company put a brake on expectations of rise in salaries*

**brake**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; 19c); **F** freiner, **S** frenar, **I** frenare, **G** bremsen; to make a vehicle slow down using the brake, *brake gently when driving on icy ground*

**brake light** *n* a red light at the back of a vehicle, that light up when you use the brake

**brake pad** *n* a thin block that presses onto the disk brake in a vehicle

**bramble** *n* (OE *brembel*, *bremel*, late 14c as *brambel*, from a Germanic word meaning *thorny bush*, see **broom**); **F** ronce f ou mùrier m des haies, **S** zarza f, **I** róvo m, **G** Brombeerstrauch m; a prickly bush, in which blackberries grow, *BrE blackberry*, *bramble jam*

**bran** *n* (OF *bren*, *bran*, VL *\*brennum*, of Gaulish origin; 14c); **F** son m, **S** salvado m, **I** crùsca f, **G** Kleie f; the outer covering of grain which is separated when the grain is made into flour, *wheat bran*

**branch**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OF *braunche*, **F** *branche*, LL *branca* paw of an animal; early 14c as *braunche*); **F** branche f, rameau m, bras (*d'un fleuve*), **S** rama f (*of a tree*), fig. ramo m, división f, sucursal, ramal m, brazo m, **I** ràmo m, sezión f, filiale f, bràccio m (*of a river*), **G** Zweig m, (unter)Abteilung f, Branche f, Linie f, Filiale f, Arm m; one of the parts of a tree that grows out from the main trunk, *flowery branches*, part of a company, *a branch of the National Bank*, a section of knowledge, *a branch of chemistry*, of a river, *a branch of Mississippi*, of a family, *a branch of my family moved to the USA last century*

**branch**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; late 14c); **F** (*of a road*) bifurquer, **S** ramificarse, separarse (*from*), **I** ramificàre, biforcàrsi, **G** Zweige treiben, sich verzweigen, sich ausbreiten; to produce branches, *the tree branches over the alley*, said of part of a road or river that leaves the main part, *the road branches one mile down in the valley*

**brand**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *brond*, *brand*, OHG & MHG *brant*, from Proto-Germanic; early 14c); **F** marque f, **S** marca f, hierro m, **I** màrca f, (*mark made by burning*) màrchio m (*a fuòco*), tipo m, **G** Marke f, Markenname f, Warenzeichen n, Feuerbrand m; a type of product made by a company, *an old brand of Scotch whisky*, fig. *a special brand of humour*, a mark that is burned by cowboys onto the skin of an animal to show who owns it, *the cows have their own brand on them*, literary a burning piece of wood, *a firebrand*

**brand**<sup>2</sup> *vt* (from the noun; late 14c); **F** marquer (*au fer rouge*), flétrir, stigmatiser, **S** marcar, estigmatizar a uno de, calificar algo de, **I** marchiàre, tacciàre di, **G** mit einem Brandmal versehen, brandmarken; to mark an animal etc, *to brand a calf*, to stigmatize the conduct of somebody, *he was branded a liar*, *that event is branded in my memory*

**brand-ed** *adj* (17c); **F** de marque, (*cattle*) marqué au fer rouge, **S** artículos m/pl de marca, **I** di màrca, (*cattle*) con il màrchio m, **G** Echtheitszeichen n; said of a product that is made by a well-known company and has the name of that company on it, *a branded Scotch whisky*

**branding iron** *n* **F** fer m rouge pour marquer, **S** hierro m de marcar, **I** fèro m per marchiàre, **G** Brenneisen n, Brandeisen n; an iron that is heated and used to brand farm animals, particularly cows

**brand-dish** *v* (14c as *braundishen*, from OF *brandir*, from *brand* sword, OHG *brant*, see **brand**); **F** brandir, **S** blandir, **I**

brandire, **G** schwingen; to wave sth like a weapon in a threatening way, *the robber brandished a knife*

**brand name** *n* also **trade name**, the name given to a particular product by a company that makes it

**brand-new** *adj* new and not yet used, *a brand-new car*

**brandy** *n* (short for *brandywine*, Dutch *brandewijn*, from *brant* burned + *wijn* wine; 17c); an alcoholic drink distilled from wine and flavoured with fruits, a glass of brandy

**brandy snap** *n* *BrE* a thin biscuit in the shape of a tube, flavoured with ginger and filled with cream

**brash** *adj* (apparently onomatopoeic, in association with words like **rash**, **crash**, etc; early 19c); **F** effronté/e, présomptueux/euse, **S** inculto/a, descarado/a, **I** insolente, arrogante, **G** brüchig, frech; too confident in a self-assertive way, *a brash young man, a brash answer*

**brass** *n* (OE *braes* an alloy of copper and tin, of uncertain origin, early 13c as *brass*, later replaced by the Italian word *bronz*, hence *bronze*, cp); **F** cuivre m jaune, laiton m, instrument m à vent en cuivre, plaque f (tombale) de cuivre, médaillon m, culot m, les gros bonnets, officier d'état major, argent, **S** latón m, el bronce, placa conmemorativa (plancha f sepulcral), descaro m, los jefes m/pl, dinero m, **I** ottóne m, *mus ottóni* m/pl, *faccia* f tosta, *sfrontatèzza* f, *placca* f decorativa, *pèzzi* m/pl gròssi, *sòldi*, **G** Messing n, Blechinstrumente n/pl, Bronze f, Messingzierat m, Frechheit f, die höchsten Tiere od. Offiziere, Geld n; a hard bright yellow metal made of a mixture of zinc and copper, *the door handles of our house are made of brass*, a musical instrument made of brass, *trumpet, trombone, saxophone, are brass instruments, the brass section of the orchestra*, a decoration made of brass, with a design or writing cut into it, usually in a church, *the Renaissance brasses in the church nearby*, *BrE informal*, self-confidence and lack of fear, *she has the brass to compete for that job!*, *AmE* important people, *the brass people*, *BrE informal*, money

**brass band** *n* **F** fanfare, **S** charanga f, **I** fanfàra f, *bànda* f, **G** Blaskapelle f; a band consisting of brass instruments

**brassed off** *adj* *BrE informal* dissatisfied, fed up, bored

**brasserie** *n* (French, from *brasser*, OF *bracier*, ultimately from L *brac-em* malt; 19c); **F** brasserie f, **S** cervecería f, **I** birreria f, **G** Bierstube f, Bierlokal n; a restaurant serving a variety of food and drinks

**brass-ière** *see* **bra**

**brass knuckles** *n* *AmE* a set of metal rings worn over your fingers, used as a weapon, *BrE* **knuckleduster**

**brass rubbing** *n* the art of taking an impression from an engraved brass plaque by rubbing a soft pencil or chalk on a piece of paper laid over it

**brassy** *adj* *derogatory* **F** *cuivré/e*, *claironnant/e*, **S** (*sound*) *metálico*, (*of a person*) *descarado*, **I** (*sound*) *stridulo/a*, *vistoso/a*, *appariscènte*, **G** *messingartig*, *sound blechern*; (*of music*) loud and unpleasant, *brassy sound*, a woman who talks loudly and is dressed in a way that makes her sexually attractive but without style, *a brassy blonde*, like brass in colour, *a brassy jacket*

**brat** *n* *coll* (of Celtic origin, probably from OE & Old Irish *bratt* coarse garment, but evidence of the transition of sense is missing); **F** *gosse* m/f, *morveux/euse*, **S** *mocos* m, *crío* m, **I** *monèllo* m, **G** *Balg* m/n, *Racker* m (*Kind*); a person, especially a child, who behaves badly, *a spoiled brat*

**bravado** *n* (French *bravade* bragging, boasting, Italian *bravata* boasting action, from *bravo* brave; late 16c); **F** *bravade* f, **S** *bravatas* f/pl, **I** *bravàta* f, *spacconeria* f, **G** *gespielte Tapferkeit*; ostentatious display of courage, bold action, *John's bravado eventually damaged him*

**brave**<sup>1</sup> *adj* (MF *brave*, from Italian *bravo* splendid, bold, L *pravus* corrupt, debased; late 15c); **F** *courageux/euse*,

*vaillant/e*, **S** *valiente*, *valeroso/a*, **I** *coraggióso*, *valoróso*, **G** *tapfer*, *mutig*; courageous, intrepid, *a brave man*

**brave**<sup>2</sup> *v* (MF *braver* to brave, affront; 16c); **F** *braver*, *défier*, **S** *desafiar*, *arrostrar*, **I** *affrontàre con corággio*, **G** *mutig begebenen*, *troetzen*; to show courage in a difficult situation, *to brave death*

**bravo** *interj* (1761, from Italian *bravo* fine, see *brave*; but see the earlier English *bravo* n, 1597, a daring villain); **F** *bravo!*, **S** *bravo!*, **I** *bràvo!*, **G** *bravo!*; excellent! well done!, used to express your pleasure when someone, especially a performer, has done well

**bravura** *n* (Italian; early 19c); **F** *morceau m de bravoure*, **S** *arroyo m*, *brio m*, **I** *bravùra* f, **G** *Bravour* f, *Meisterschaft* f; display of defiance, *he faced the danger with bravura*, great skill, *a bravura display of her talents*

**brawl**<sup>1</sup> *v* (of uncertain origin, cp Dutch *brallen* to brag, boast, German dialect *brallen*, probably from the same source, and OF *braillier* to shout, VL *\*bragulare*; 14c); **F** *rix* f, *bagarre* f, **S** *pendencia* f, *reyerta* f, **I** *fàre una rissa* f, **G** *streiten*; to take part in a noisy quarrel among a number of people, usually in a public place, *they brawled in the street, at night, soon after leaving the pub*

**brawl**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from the verb; 15c); **F** *se bagarrer*, **S** *armar pendencia*, *alborotar*, **I** *rissa* f, **G** *Streiterei* f; a noisy quarrel among a number of people, usually in a public place, *a brawl took place in the pub last night*

**brawler** *n* (*brawl* verb + *-er*, late 14c); **F** *bagarreux/euse*, **S** *camorrista m*, *alborotador m*, **I** *persóna* f *rissósa*, **G** *Raufbold m*, *Krakeeler/in*; one given to brawls

**brawn** *n* (OE *braedan* to roast, OHG *brātan*, ModG *Braten* roast meat, OF *braoun* fleshy part, muscle; 14c); **F** *fromage m de tête*, *muscles* m/pl, **S** *carne* f *en gelatina*, *fuerza* f *muscular*, **I** *soppressàta* f, *còppa* f, *mùscoli* m/pl, **G** *Preßkopf m*, (*Schweine*)*Sülze* f, *Muskeln* pl; meat from the head of a pig, cooked and pressed into a block, physical strength, especially when compared with intelligence, *that athlete has brawn, not brains*

**brawny** *adj* *informal* (*brawn* n + *-y*; late 16c); **F** *musculeux/euse*, **S** *musculoso/a*, **I** *muscolóso/a*, **G** *muskulös*, *kräftig*; having strong muscles, *brawny arms*

**bray**<sup>1</sup> *v* (ME *braie*, *braye*, OF *braire* to cry, now only of the ass, MedL *bragire*, probably from a Celtic source, cognate with L *fragor*, early 14c); **F** *braire*, **S** *rabuznar*, **I** *urlàre*, *ragliàre*, **G** *schreien*; to make a loud, unpleasant noise, like that of a donkey, *the donkey started braying*

**bray**<sup>2</sup> *n* (from OF *brait*, from *braire* cry out; late 13c); **F** *brayment* m, **S** *rebuzno* m, **I** *ràglio* m *dell'àsino*, **G** (*Esels*)*Schrei* m; the donkey's cry, a harsh voice or laugh

**brazen**<sup>1</sup> *adj* (OE *braesen*, from *braes*, *brass* + *-en*; the present meaning arose in 16c from the idea of having a countenance hardened like brass); **F** *d'airain*, *effronté/e*, *impudent/e*, **S** *descarado/a*, *cínico/a*, **I** *di ottóne*, *sfacciàto/a*, *sfrontàto/a*, **G** *ehern*, *Messing-*, *unverschämt*; *disapproving*, open and without shame, shameless, *brazen behaviour*, made of brass, *brazen cups*, of the colour of brass, *a brazen colour*

**brazen**<sup>2</sup> *phr* *v* **brazen sth out** to try to be confident rather than ashamed, in a situation that is for you embarrassing

**brazier**<sup>1</sup> *n* (from *braze* v, or from *brass* n + *-ier*, cf *glazier*, *grazier*; but see OF *brasier* a pan of hot coals, from *braise* hot charcoal, and *brasoir* faire rôtir sur la braise; 14c); **F** *brasero* m, *brasier* m, **S** *brasero* m, **I** *braciére* m, **G** *große Kohlenpfanne* f; a metal container for burning coal, wood, etc, used for roasting meat or to keep people warm when outside

**brazier**<sup>2</sup> (ME *bras* + *-ier*, as in *glazier*, etc; early 14c); *n* **F** *chaudronnier* m, **S** *calderero* m, **I** *calderàio* m, **G** *Kupferschmied* m; a person who works in brass

**brazil** *n*, also **brazil nut**, a large curved nut that has a hard shell

**breach**<sup>1</sup> *n* (OE *bræc* a breaking, *bryce*, *brice*, see ME *breche*, see **break**, and OF *breche* breach, fracture); **F** infraction *f*, violation *f*, rupture, **S** brecha *f*, violaci3n, **I** violazi3ne *f*, infrazi3ne *f*, rottura *f*, **G** Bruch *m*; the action of breaking a promise, a law, etc, *breach of contract*, *breach of peace*, *a breach in the walls*

**breach**<sup>2</sup> *v* (from the noun; 16c); **F** rompre, ouvrir une brèche dans (*un mur*), **S** romper, abrir brecha en, **I** violare, infrangere, **G** durchbrechen; not to keep a promise, a contract, etc, *to breach safety regulations*, to go through a wall, a fence, etc, *the truck breached the fence*

**bread** *n* (OE *brēad* piece, morsel, OS *brōd*, OHG *brōt*, Middle Dutch *broot*, Old Icelandic *braudh*, from Proto-Germanic; in Old English the common word was *hlāf*, which survives as *loaf*, but about 1200 *bread* had displaced it); **F** pain *m*, **S** pan *m*, **I** pàne *m*, **G** Brot *n*; a food made with flour mixed with water, with some yeast and then baked, *a slice of bread*, *half a loaf of bread*

**bread and butter** *n* **F** pain beurré, **S** pan *m* con mantequilla, **I** pàne *m* imburràto, **G** Butterbrot *n*; slices of bread spread with butter, fig. a job which provides you with living, *teaching is my bread and butter at the moment*,

**bread-and-butter** *adj* basic, very important, *the bread-and-butter issues of the political debate*

**bread-bas-ket** *n* (16c); **F** corbeille *f* à pain, **S** cesto *m* para el pan, **I** césto *m* per il pàne, **G** Brotkorb *m*; a basket in which you keep bread, fig. an area which provides large quantity of food for the rest of the country, *Ukraine was the bread-basket for Russia*

**bread-board** *n* a flat board used for cutting bread on

**bread-crumbs** *n* small pieces of bread that are used in cooking

**bread-ed** *adj* covered in breadcrumbs

**bread-fruit** *n* a large tropical fruit that tastes like bread when it is cooked, and grows on a tree called 'breadfruit tree'

**bread-line** *n* **F** indigence *f*, **S** en la mayor miseria, **I** al di sótto della s3glia di povertà, **G** (Schlange von Bedürftigen) in tiefster Armut; the level of income of very poor people, *many people live below the breadline*

**bread 'roll** *n* roll

**breadth** *n* also **broad-ness** (OE *braed*, *brād* broad, a late formation by analogy with *streng-th*, *leng-th*; early 16c); **F** largeur *f*, ampleur *f*, **S** anchura *f*, amplitud *f*, **I** larghezza *f*, ampiézza *f*, **G** Breite *f*, Weite *f*; the distance from one side to the other, *the breadth of this table*, a vast range of knowledge, interests, etc, *the breadth of John's scientific interests*

**bread-win-ner** *n* (early 19c); one who supports his family with the money he earns, *Peter in his youth was the breadwinner of his family*

**break**<sup>1</sup> *v* past tense **broke** past part **broken** (OE *brecan*, ME *breken*, OS *brekan*, OHG *brehhan*, Middle Dutch *breken*; Old Teutonic stem *-brek-* corresponds to L *frag-frangere*, source of English *fracture*); **F** casser, briser, rompre, **S** romper, **I** r3mpere, spezzàre, spezzàrsi, **G** brechen; to separate into pieces, *he broke the glass in a moment of fury*, *the glass broke into pieces*, stop working, *the engine broke down at ten miles from the main road*, to break the law, the rules, a contract, etc, *she broke the promise to me*, stop for a short time, *we usually break for lunch at 12.15*, said of day/dawn, *dawn broke over the mountains*, *dawn was breaking by the time he left the pub*, to bring to notice, to cause sth to be known, *the newspaper broke the news of the financial scandal*, of voice, *his voice broke with the emotion*, of waves, *a huge wave broke on/against the rocks*, end sth,

*he broke the silence*, *he broke the world record for the mile*, *she broke my resistance*

**break**<sup>2</sup> *n* (ME *brechen*; late 13c as *breck*); **F** rupture *f*, brisure *f*, cassure *f*, **S** ruptura *f*, rompimiento *m*, **I** rottura *f*, interruzione *f*, **G** (Ab-, Zer-, Durch-)Brechen *n*; a short pause, *coffee/tea break*, holiday, *a short break in Rome*, to escape, *the prisoner made a break from prison*, an interruption, *a break in the rain*, an opportunity in the career, *his big break came when he was offered the chair at Cambridge*

**break-able** *adj* (*break* verb + *-able*; 16c); **F** fragile, cassable, **S** frágil, quebradizo/a, **I** frágile, **G** zerbrechlich/e; easily broken

**break-age** *n* (*break* verb + *-age*; early 19c); sth broken by somebody, *there have been a few breakages, but they will be paid for*

**break-away** *n* the action of separating from a group for disagreement, *a breakaway from the Labour Party*

**break-dancing** *n* a style of dancing with acrobatic movements

**break-down** *n* an occasion when a machine stops working, *the breakdown of the engine*, fig. *the breakdown of talks with the trade unions*, the failure of a relationship, *a marriage breakdown*

**breakdown lane** *n* AmE hard shoulder

**breakdown truck** *n* a truck that is used to take away cars when they have had a breakdown

**break-er** *n* a large wave that is rolling over land and breaks into foam, *to swim out beyond the breaker*, a person or firm that breaks up old cars

**break-fast** *n* the first meal of the day, *we usually have breakfast at seven*

**break-in** *n* an entry into a building using force, usually in order to steal, *there was a break-in in my country home during the absence of the warden*

**breaking and entering** *n* AmE the crime of entering a building illegally

**breaking point** *n* **F** point *m* de rupture, **S** punto de ruptura, **I** pùnto *m* di rottura, **G** Bruchgrenze *f*; the stage at which you cannot exert anymore control over yourself, over a situation, etc, *to be at/to reach breaking point*, *the marriage is at breaking point*

**break-neck** *adj* fast and dangerous, *at breakneck speed*

**break-out** *n* a violent escape from prison, *there has been a breakout from Alcatraz*

**break-through** *n* a sudden advance in knowledge or science, a development that can lead to an achievement, **to make/achieve a breakthrough**, *in recent negotiations a breakthrough was achieved by the President's envoy*

**break time** *n* BrE break

**break-up** *n* the ending of a relationship, *the break-up of the marriage between Sara and Vincent*

**break-water** *n* a wall built out

**bream** *n* (ME *breme*, OF *bresme*, MedL *bresmia*, OS *bressemot*, MHG *brasme*; late 14c); a freshwater or sea edible fish, related to the carp

**breast** *n* (OE *brēost*, OS *briost*, ON *brjóst*, OHG & MHG *brust*); **F** sein *m*, poitrine *f*, **S** pecho *m*, seno *m*, **I** mammèlla *f*, séno *m*, **G** Brust *f*; one of the two round parts on a woman's chest that produce milk when she gets a baby

**breast-bone** *n* the long flat bone in the chest, also called **sternum**

**breast-feed** *v* said of a woman who feeds her child with milk from her breast

**breast-plate** *n* a piece of metal armour worn in the past by soldiers to protect their breast

**breast-stroke** *n* a way of swimming in which the arms are extended in front of the head and make a circular movement, while the legs are kicked outwards and backwards

**breath**<sup>1</sup> *n* (ME *breth*, *breath*, from OE *bræth* exhalation, smell, cognate with OHG *brādam* breath, ModG *Brodem* exhalation); **F** haleine *f*, souffle *m*, **S** respiraci3n *f*, haliento *m*, **I** respiro *m*, **G** Atem(zug); the air that you draw into and then expel from the lungs, *a short/deep breath*

**breath-able** *adj* (*breath* verb + *-able*; early 18c); fit for breathing, a breathable clothing is one that allows air in and body moisture out

**breath-alyse** *v* to test a driver for drunkenness by making him breathe into a breathalyser

**breath-alyser** *n* an apparatus used to measure the quantity of alcohol contained in the blood of a driver

**breathe**<sup>2</sup> *v* (ME *breathen*, *brethen*, from the noun; 13c); **F** respirer, **S** respirar, **I** respirāre, **G** atmen; to take air into your lungs and then expel it, *I can hardly breathe, to breathe in and to breathe out*

**breather** *n informal* a short pause for relaxing, *to have/take a breather after two hours of hard work*

**breath-ing** *n* the action of taking air into the lungs and sending it out, *deep/heavy breathing*

**breathing space** *n* a short break in the middle of a period of intense effort

**breath-less** *adj* (*breath* + *-less*; late 14c); **F** essouffl3e, hors d'haleine, **S** falto de aliento, jadeante, **I** senza respiro, **G** atemlos/e; having difficulty in breathing, *he arrived breathless at the top of the slope*

**breath-tak-ing** *adj* **F** 3tonnant/e, qui coupe le souffl3e, **S** imponente, **I** mozzafiato, **G** atemberaubend/e; very exciting, in a pleasant way, *a breathtaking view of the landscape, breathtaking beauty*

**breath test** *n* a test used to show the amount of alcohol in a diver's breath

**breathy** *adj* speaking with an audible sound of breathing