



cause worry or distress to : BESET (doubts *besieged* him) — **be-sieger** *n*

be-smear \bi-'smir, bē-\ *vt* (bef. 12c) : SMEAR

be-smirch \bi-'smarch, bē-\ *vt* (1599) : SULLY, SOIL

be-som \bē-'zam\ *n* [ME *beseme*, fr. OE *besma*; akin to OHG *besmo* 'broom'] (bef. 12c) : BROOM 2; *esp* : one made of twigs

besom pocket *n* [origin unknown] (1966) : a pocket with a welted slit opening

be-sot \bi-'sāt, bē-\ *vt* **be-sot-ting**; **be-sot-ting** [*be-* + *sot* (to stultify)] (1567) 1 : INFATUATE 2 2 : to make dull or stupid; *esp* : to muddle with drunkenness — **be-sot-ting-ly** *adv*

be-spat-ter \bi-'spa-tər, bē-\ *vt* (1600) : SPATTER

be-speak \bi-'spēk, bē-\ *vt* -**speak** \-'spōk\; -**speak-ken** \-'spō-kən\; -**speak-ing** (1533) 1 : to hire, engage, or claim beforehand 2 : to speak to *esp.* with formality : ADDRESS 3 : REQUEST (~ a favor) 4

a : INDICATE, SIGNIFY (her performance ~s considerable practice) **b** : to show beforehand : FORETELL

be-spec-ta-cled \bi-'spek-(j)ti-kəld, bē-\ *adj* (1742) : wearing spectacles

be-spoke \bi-'spōk, bē-\ *also* **be-spo-ken** \-'spō-kən\ *adj* [pp. of *be-speak*] (1607) 1 **a** : CUSTOM-MADE (a ~ suit) **b** : dealing in or producing custom-made articles 2 *dial* : ENGAGED

be-sprent \bi-'sprent\ *adj* [ME *bespreynt*, fr. pp. of *besprengen* to besprinkle, fr. OE *besprengan*, fr. *be-* + *sprengan* to scatter; akin to OE *springan* to spring] (14c) *archaic* : sprinkled over

be-sprin-kle \bi-'sprin-kəl, bē-\ *vt* [ME *besprengeln*, freq. of *besprengen*] (15c) : SPRINKLE

Bes-sel function \be-'səl-\ *n* [Friedrich W. Bessel †1846 Prussian astronomer] (1872) : one of a class of transcendental functions expressible as infinite series and occurring in the solution of the differential equation

$$x^2 \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} + x \frac{dy}{dx} = (n^2 - x^2)y$$

Bes-se-mer process \be-'sə-mər-\ *n* [Sir Henry Bessemer] (1856) : a process of making steel from pig iron by burning out carbon and other impurities by means of a blast of air forced through the molten metal

best \best\ *adj*, *superlative of GOOD* [ME, fr. OE *best*; akin to OE *bōt* 'remedy' — more at BETTER] (bef. 12c) 1 : excelling all others (the ~ student) 2 : most productive of good : offering or producing the greatest advantage, utility, or satisfaction (what is the ~ thing to do) 3 : MOST, LARGEST (it rained for the ~ part of their vacation)

best *adv*, *superlative of WELL* (bef. 12c) 1 : in the best way : to greatest advantage (some things are ~ left unsaid) 2 : MOST (those ~ able will provide needed support) — **as best** : as well, skillfully, or accurately as (try to do it *as best* you can)

best *n*, *pl best* (bef. 12c) 1 : the best state or part 2 : one that is best (the ~ falls short) 3 : the greatest degree of good or excellence 4 **a** : one's maximum effort (do your ~) **b** : a best performance or achievement (ran a new personal ~) 5 : best clothes (Sunday ~) — **at best** : under the most favorable circumstances

best *vt* (1863) : to get the better of : OUTDO

best *verbal auxiliary* (1914) : had best (you ~ listen)

best-ball \best-'bɔl\ *adj* (1909) 1 : relating to or being a golf match in which one player competes against the best individual score of two or more players for each hole 2 : FOUR-BALL

best boy *n* (1937) : the chief assistant to the gaffer in motion-picture or television production

best-case \bes(t)-'kās\ *adj* (1973) : being, relating to, or based on a projection of future events that assumes only the best possible circumstances (a ~ scenario)

be-stead or **be-sted** \bi-'sted\ *adj* [ME *bested*, fr. *be-* + *sted*, pp. of *steden* to place, fr. *stede* 'place' — more at STEAD] (14c) *archaic* : SITUATED

bestead *vt* **be-stead-ed**; **be-stead**; **be-stead-ing** [*be-* + *stead*] (1578) 1 *archaic* : HELP 2 *archaic* : to be useful to : AVAIL

best-lial \bes-'chal, 'besh-, 'bēs-, 'bēsh-\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *bestialis*, fr. *bestia* 'beast'] (14c) 1 **a** : of or relating to beasts **b** : resembling a beast 2 **a** : lacking intelligence or reason **b** : marked by base or inhuman instincts or desires : BRUTAL *syn* see BRUTAL — **best-lial-ize** \-'chə-līz\ *vt* — **best-lial-ly** \-'chə-lē\ *adv*

best-lial-ity \bes-'chē-'a-lə-tē, 'besh-, 'bēs-, 'bēsh-\ *n*, *pl -ties* (14c) 1 : the condition or status of a lower animal 2 : display or gratification of bestial traits or impulses 3 : sexual relations between a human being and a lower animal

best-lial-ly \bes-'chē-'a-lə-tē, 'besh-, 'bēs-, 'bēsh-\ *adv*

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such phrases as *all bets are off* ; the act of giving such a choice made by consideration

bet *vb* **bet** *also* **bet-ting**; **bet-ting** [*bet-* + *ting* (to bet)] (15c) : to bet sure that — *usu.* used in **2 a** : to maintain with or as if one were to bet on ~ *vi* : to lay one's money on ~

bet *adv* **bet** *between* [*bet-* + *between*] (15c) : to bet on ~ *vi* : to lay one's money on ~

beta \bē-'tā, bē-\ *n* [*chiefly Brit* 'bē-tā'] (1862) : second in order of precedence in a series of letters of the alphabet — *see* ALPHABET

beta *adj* (1862) : second in order of precedence in a series of letters of the alphabet — *see* ALPHABET

beta *n* (1862) : second in order of precedence in a series of letters of the alphabet — *see* ALPHABET

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