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**bier** <sup>ˈbɪr</sup> *n*: a stand bearing a coffin or corpse  
**bi-focal** <sup>ˈbi-fə-kəl</sup> *adj*: having two focal lengths  
**bifocals** <sup>-kəlz</sup> *n pl*: eyeglasses with lenses that have one part that corrects for near vision and one for distant vision  
**bi-furcate** <sup>ˈbi-fər-əkət</sup> *vb* -**cat-ed**; -**cat-ing**: to divide into two branches or parts — **bi-fur-cation** <sup>ˌbi-fər-ˈkæ-shən</sup> *n*  
**big** <sup>ˈbɪg</sup> *adj* **big-ger**; **big-gest** 1: large in size, amount, or scope 2: PREGNANT; also: SWELLING 3: IMPORTANT, IMPOSING 4: POPULAR — **big-ness** *n*  
**big-am-y** <sup>ˈbi-gə-mē</sup> *n*: the act of marrying one person while still legally married to another — **big-amist** <sup>-mɪst</sup> *n* — **big-a-mous** <sup>-məs</sup> *adj*  
**big bang theory** *n*: a theory in astronomy: the universe originated in an explosion (**big bang**) from a single point of nearly infinite energy density  
**big brother** 1: an older brother 2: a man who befriends a delinquent or friendless boy 3 *cap both Bs*: the leader of an authoritarian state or movement  
**Big Dipper** *n*: the seven principal stars of Ursa Major in a form resembling a dipper  
**big-foot** <sup>ˈbi-gɪ-fʊt</sup> *n*: SASQUATCH  
**big-horn** <sup>ˈbi-g-hɔrn</sup> *n, pl* **big-horn** or **bighorns**: a wild sheep of mountainous western No. America



bighorn

**bight** <sup>ˈbɪt</sup> *n* 1: a curve in a coast; also: the bay formed by such a curve 2: a slack part in a rope  
**big-name** <sup>ˈbi-g-nām</sup> *adj*: widely popular (a ~ performer) — **big name** *n*  
**big-ot** <sup>ˈbi-gət</sup> *n*: one intolerantly devoted to his or her own prejudices or opinions *syn* fanatic, enthusiast, zealot — **big-ot-ed** <sup>-gətəd</sup> *adj* — **big-ot-ry** <sup>-trɪ</sup> *n*  
**big shot** <sup>ˈbi-g-ʃhət</sup> *n*: an important person  
**big time** <sup>ˈbi-tīm</sup> *n* 1: a high-paying vaudeville circuit requiring only two performances a day 2: the top rank of an activity or enterprise — **big-time** *n*  
**big top** *n* 1: the main tent of a circus 2: CIRCUS  
**big-wig** <sup>ˈbi-g-wɪg</sup> *n*: BIG SHOT  
**bike** <sup>ˈbɪk</sup> *n* 1: BICYCLE 2: MOTORCYCLE  
**biker** *n*: MOTORCYCLIST; *esp*: one who is a member of an organized gang  
**bike-way** <sup>ˈbɪk-wā</sup> *n*: a thoroughfare for bicycles  
**bi-ki-ni** <sup>ˈbi-kē-nē</sup> *n*: a woman's brief 2-piece bathing suit  
**bi-lat-er-al** <sup>ˌbi-lə-tə-rəl</sup> *adj* 1: having or involving two sides 2: affecting reciprocally two sides or parties — **bi-lat-er-al-ly** *adv*  
**bile** <sup>ˈbɪl</sup> *n* 1: a bitter greenish fluid secreted by the liver that aids in the digestion of fats 2: an ill-humored mood  
**bilge** <sup>ˈbɪlj</sup> *n* 1: the part of a ship that lies between the bottom and the point where the sides go straight up 2: stale or worthless remarks or ideas  
**bi-ling-u-al** <sup>ˌbi-lɪŋ-gwəl</sup> *adj*: expressed in, knowing, or using two languages

**bil-ious** <sup>ˈbɪl-yəs</sup> *adj* 1: marked by or suffering from disordered liver function 2: IRRITABLE, ILL-TEMPERED — **bil-ious-ness** *n*  
**bilk** <sup>ˈbɪlk</sup> *vb*: CHEAT, SWINDLE  
**bill** <sup>ˈbɪl</sup> *n*: the jaws of a bird together with their horny covering; also: a mouth structure (as of a turtle) resembling these — **billed** <sup>ˈbɪld</sup> *adj*  
**bill** *vb*: to caress fondly  
**bill** 1: an itemized statement of particulars; also: INVOICE 2: a written document or note 3: a printed advertisement (as a poster) announcing an event 4: a draft of a law presented to a legislature for enactment 5: a written statement of a legal wrong suffered or of some breach of law 6: a piece of paper money  
**bill** 1: to enter in or prepare a bill; also: to submit a bill or account to 2: to advertise by bills or posters  
**bill-board** <sup>-bɔrd</sup> *n*: a flat surface on which advertising bills are posted  
**bill-let** <sup>ˈbɪ-lət</sup> *n* 1: an order requiring a person to provide lodging for a soldier; also: quarters assigned by or as if by such an order 2: POSITION, APPOINTMENT  
**billet** *vb*: to assign lodging to by billet  
**bil-let-doux** <sup>ˌbi-lə-ˈdu</sup> *n, pl* **billets-doux** <sup>-dʊz</sup> *same or -dʊz* [F *billet doux*, lit., sweet letter]: a love letter  
**bill-fold** <sup>ˈbɪl-fəld</sup> *n*: WALLET  
**bill-iards** <sup>ˈbɪl-jərdz</sup> *n*: any of several games played on an oblong table by driving balls against each other or into pockets with a cue  
**bil-ings-gate** <sup>ˈbɪ-lɪŋz-gət</sup> *n* [Brit *usu -git*]: *n* [Billings-gate, old gate and fish market, London, England]: coarsely abusive language  
**bil-lion** <sup>ˈbɪl-jən</sup> *n* 1: a thousand millions 2 *Brit*: a million millions — **bil-lion** *adj* — **bil-lionth** <sup>-jənθ</sup> *adj or n*  
**bill of health**: a usu. favorable report following an examination  
**bill of sale**: a legal document transferring ownership of goods  
**bil-low** <sup>ˈbɪ-lə</sup> *n* 1: WAVE; *esp*: a great wave 2: a rolling mass (as of fog or flame) like a great wave — **bil-low-y** <sup>-wə</sup> *adj*  
**billow** *vb*: to rise and roll in waves; also: to swell out (~ing sails)  
**bil-ly** <sup>ˈbɪ-lē</sup> *n, pl* **billies**: BILLY CLUB  
**billy club** *n*: a heavy usu. wooden club; *esp*: a police officer's club  
**billy goat** <sup>ˈbɪ-lē</sup> *n*: a male goat  
**bi-met-al** <sup>ˈbi-met-əl</sup> *adj*: BIMETALLIC — **bimetal** *n*  
**bi-met-al-lic** <sup>ˌbi-mə-ˈtə-lɪk</sup> *adj*: made of two different metals — often used of devices having a bonded expansive part — **bimetallic** *n*  
**bi-met-al-lim** <sup>ˌbi-ˈmet-əl-ɪ-zəm</sup> *n*: the use of two metals at fixed ratios to form a standard of value for a monetary system  
**bi-month-ly** <sup>ˌbi-ˈmʌnth-lē</sup> *adj* 1: occurring every two months 2: occurring twice a month: SEMIMONTHLY — **bimonthly** *adv*  
**bimonthly** *n*: a bimonthly publication  
**bin** <sup>ˈbɪn</sup> *n*: a box, crib, or enclosure used for storage  
**bi-nar-y** <sup>ˈbi-nə-rē, -nər-ē</sup> *adj* 1: consisting of two things or parts 2: relating to, being, or belonging to a system of numbers having 2 as its base (the ~ digits 0 and 1) 3: involving a choice between or condition of two alternatives only (as on-off, yes-no) — **binary** *n*  
**binary star** *n*: a system of two stars revolving around each other  
**bin-aural** <sup>ˌbɪ-nɔr-əl</sup> *adj*: of or relating to sound reproduction involving the use of two separated microphones and two transmission channels to achieve a stereophonic effect  
**bind** <sup>ˈbaɪnd</sup> *vb* **bound** <sup>ˈbaʊnd</sup>; **bind-ing** 1: TIE; also: to restrain as if by tying 2: to put under an obligation; also: to constrain with legal authority 3: BAND-AGE 4: to unite into a mass 5: to compel as if by a pledge (a handshake ~s the deal) 6: to strengthen or

decorate with a band 7: to fasten together and enclose in a cover (~ books) 8: to exert a tying, restraining, or compelling effect — **bind-er** *n*  
**bind-ing** <sup>ˈbɪn-dɪŋ</sup> *n*: something (as a ski fastening, a cover, or an edging fabric) used to bind  
**binge** <sup>ˈbɪŋj</sup> *n*: SPREE  
**binge** *vb* **binged**; **binge-ing** or **bing-ing**: to go on a binge and *esp.* an eating binge — **bing-er** *n*  
**bin-go** <sup>ˈbɪŋ-gə</sup> *n, pl* **bingos**: a game of chance played with cards having numbered squares corresponding to numbered balls drawn at random and won by covering five squares in a row  
**bin-na-cle** <sup>ˌbɪ-nɪ-kəl</sup> *n* [alter. of ME *bitakle*, fr. Pg or Sp; Pg *bitacola* & Sp *bitacula*, fr. L *habitaculum* dwelling place, fr. *habitare* to inhabit]: a container holding a ship's compass  
**bin-oc-u-lar** <sup>ˌbɪ-nə-kyə-lər, bə-ˈlɑdʒ</sup> *adj*: of, relating to, or adapted to the use of both eyes — **bin-oc-u-lar-ly** *adv*  
**bin-oc-u-lar** <sup>ˌbɪ-nə-kyə-lər, bɪ-ˈnɔ</sup> *n* 1: a binocular optical instrument (as a microscope) 2: a hand-held optical instrument composed of two telescopes and a focusing device — usu. used in pl.  
**bi-no-mi-al** <sup>ˌbɪ-nə-mē-əl</sup> *n* 1: a mathematical expression consisting of two terms connected by the sign plus (+) or minus (-) 2: a biological species name consisting of two terms — **binomial** *adj*  
**bio-chem-is-try** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈke-mə-strē</sup> *n*: chemistry that deals with the chemical compounds and processes occurring in living things — **bio-chem-i-cal** <sup>-mi-kəl</sup> *adj or n* — **bio-chem-ist** <sup>-mɪst</sup> *n*  
**bio-de-grad-able** <sup>ˌdi-ˈgrɑ-də-bəl</sup> *adj*: capable of being broken down *esp.* into innocuous products by the actions of living things (as microorganisms) (a ~ detergent) — **bio-de-grad-a-ble-ty** <sup>-grɑ-də-ˈbi-lə-tē</sup> *n* — **bio-de-gra-da-tion** <sup>-de-grɑ-ˈdɑ-shən</sup> *n* — **bio-de-grad-e** <sup>-di-ˈgrɑd</sup> *vb*  
**bio-di-vers-ity** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈvɜr-sə-ti, -dɪ-</sup> *n*: biological diversity in an environment as indicated by numbers of different species of plants and animals  
**bio-eth-ics** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈθɪks</sup> *n*: the ethics of biological research and its applications *esp.* in medicine — **bio-eth-i-cal** <sup>-e-θi-kəl</sup> *adj* — **bio-eth-i-cist** <sup>-e-θə-sɪst</sup> *n*  
**bio-feed-back** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈfɛd-bæk</sup> *n*: the technique of making unconscious or involuntary bodily processes (as heartbeats or brain waves) objectively perceptible to the senses (as by use of an oscilloscope) in order to manipulate them by conscious mental control  
**biog** *abbr* biographer; biographical; biography  
**bio-ge-og-ra-phy** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈjɛ-ˈɑ-grə-fē</sup> *n*: a branch of biology that deals with the distribution of plants and animals — **bio-ge-og-ra-pher** *n*  
**bi-og-ra-phy** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈgrɑ-fē, bē-</sup> *n, pl* **-phies**: a written history of a person's life; also: such writings in general — **bi-og-ra-pher** *n* — **bi-og-raph-i-cal** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈgrɑ-fi-kəl</sup> *also* **bi-og-raph-ic** <sup>-fɪk</sup> *adj*  
**biol** *abbr* biologic; biological; biologist; biology  
**bi-ol-og-i-cal** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈlɑ-ji-kəl</sup> *also* **bi-ol-og-ic** <sup>-jɪk</sup> *adj* 1: of, relating to, or produced by biology or life and living processes 2: related by direct genetic relationship rather than by adoption or marriage (~ parents) — **bi-ol-og-i-cal-ly** <sup>-ji-k(ə)-lɪ</sup> *adv*  
**biological clock** *n*: an inherent timing mechanism inferred to exist in some living systems (as a cell) in order to explain various cyclic physiological and behavioral responses  
**biological warfare** *n*: warfare in which living organisms (as bacteria) are used as weapons  
**bi-ol-o-gy** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈlɑ-jə</sup> *n* [G *Biologie*, fr. Gk *bios* mode of life + *logos* word] 1: a science that deals with living beings and life processes 2: the life processes of an organism or group — **bi-ol-o-gist** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈlɑ-jɪst</sup> *n*  
**bio-med-i-cal** <sup>ˌbi-ə-ˈme-di-kəl</sup> *adj*: of, relating to, or involving biological, medical, and physical science  
**bi-on-ic** <sup>ˌbi-ə-nɪk</sup> *adj*: having normal biological ca-