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bier ^{ˈbɪr} *n*: a stand bearing a coffin or corpse
bifocal ^{ˈbɪ-fə-kəl} *adj*: having two focal lengths
bifocals ^{-kəlz} *n pl*: eyeglasses with lenses that have one part that corrects for near vision and one for distant vision
bi-furcate ^{ˈbi-fər-ɪ-kət, bɪ-fər-ɪ} *vb -cat-ed; -cat-ing*: to divide into two branches or parts — **bi-fur-cation** ^{ˌbi-fər-ɪ-ˈkæ-shən} *n*
big ^{ˈbɪg} *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 ^{ˈbi-gə-mē} *n*: the act of marrying one person while still legally married to another — **big-am-ist** ^{-mɪst} *n* — **big-a-mous** ^{-məs} *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 ^{ˈbɪg-ɪ-fʊt} *n*: SASQUATCH
big-horn ^{ˈbɪg-ɪ-hɔrn} *n, pl* **bighorn** or **bighorns**: a wild sheep of mountainous western No. America



bighorn

bight ^{ˈbɪt} *n*: a curve in a coast; *also*: the bay formed by such a curve 2: a slack part in a rope
big-name ^{ˈbɪg-ˈnæm} *adj*: widely popular (a ~ performer) — **big name** *n*
big-ot ^{ˈbɪg-ət} *n*: one intolerantly devoted to his or her own prejudices or opinions *syn* fanatic, enthusiast, zealot — **big-ot-ed** ^{-gət-əd} *adj* — **big-ot-ry** ^{-trɪ} *n*
big shot ^{ˈbɪg-ʃhət} *n*: an important person
big time ^{ˈbɪg-ˈtaɪm} *n*: 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*: the main tent of a circus 2: CIRCUS
big-wig ^{ˈbɪg-ɪ-wɪg} *n*: BIG SHOT
bike ^{ˈbɪk} *n*: BICYCLE 2: MOTORCYCLE
biker *n*: MOTORCYCLIST; *esp*: one who is a member of an organized gang
bike-way ^{ˈbɪk-ɪ-wā} *n*: a thoroughfare for bicycles
bi-ki-ni ^{ˈbi-ki-nē} *n*: a woman's brief 2-piece bathing suit
bi-lat-er-al ^{ˌbi-ˈlɑ-tə-rəl} *adj* 1: having or involving two sides 2: affecting reciprocally two sides or parties — **bi-lat-er-al-ly** *adv*
bile ^{ˈbɪl} *n*: a bitter greenish fluid secreted by the liver that aids in the digestion of fats 2: an ill-humored mood
bilge ^{ˈbɪlj} *n*: 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 ^{ˌbi-ˈlɪŋ-ɡwəl} *adj*: expressed in, knowing, or using two languages

bil-ious ^{ˈbɪl-ɪəs} *adj* 1: marked by or suffering from disordered liver function 2: IRRITABLE, ILL-TEMPERED — **bil-ious-ness** *n*
bilk ^{ˈbɪlk} *vb*: CHEAT, SWINDLE
bill ^{ˈbɪl} *n*: the jaws of a bird together with their horny covering; *also*: a mouth structure (as of a turtle) resembling these — **billed** ^{ˈbɪld} *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 ^{-bɔrd} *n*: a flat surface on which advertising bills are posted
bill-let ^{ˈbɪl-lət} *n*: 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 ^{ˌbi-lə-ˈduː} *n, pl* **billets-doux** ^{-dʊz} *same or -dʊz* [F *billet doux*, lit., sweet letter]: a love letter
bil-fold ^{ˈbɪl-fəld} *n*: WALLET
bil-li-ards ^{ˈbɪl-jɑrdz} *n*: any of several games played on an oblong table by driving balls against each other or into pockets with a cue
bil-ling-s-gate ^{ˈbɪ-lɪŋz-ɡæt} *n* [Brit usu -ɡɪt] *n* [*Billings-gate*, old gate and fish market, London, England]: coarsely abusive language
bil-lion ^{ˈbɪl-jən} *n* 1: a thousand millions 2 *Brit*: a million millions — **bil-lion** *adj* — **bil-lionth** ^{-jənθ} *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 ^{ˈbɪ-lə} *n* 1: WAVE; *esp*: a great wave 2: a rolling mass (as of fog or flame) like a great wave — **bil-low-y** ^{-lə-wē} *adj*
billow *vb*: to rise and roll in waves; *also*: to swell out (~ing sails)
bil-ly ^{ˈbɪ-lē} *n, pl* **billies**: BILLY CLUB
billy club *n*: a heavy usu. wooden club; *esp*: a police officer's club
billy goat ^{ˈbɪ-lē} *n*: a male goat
bi-met-al ^{ˈbi-met-əl} *adj*: BIMETALLIC — **bi-metal** *n*
bi-met-al-lic ^{ˌbi-mə-ˈtɑ-lɪk} *adj*: made of two different metals — often used of devices having a bonded expansive part — **bi-metallic** *n*
bi-met-al-lism ^{ˌbi-ˈmet-əl-ɪ-zəm} *n*: the use of two metals at fixed ratios to form a standard of value for a monetary system
bi-month-ly ^{ˌbi-ˈmʌnth-lē} *adj* 1: occurring every two months 2: occurring twice a month: SEMIMONTHLY — **bi-monthly** *adv*
bi-monthly *n*: a bimonthly publication
bin ^{ˈbɪn} *n*: a box, crib, or enclosure used for storage
bi-nar-y ^{ˈbi-nə-rē, -nər-ē} *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) — **bi-nar-y** *n*
bi-nary star *n*: a system of two stars revolving around each other
bin-aural ^{ˌbɪ-nɔr-əl} *adj*: of or relating to sound reproduction involving the use of two separated microphones and two transmission channels to achieve a stereophonic effect
bind ^{ˈbaɪnd} *vb* **bound** ^{ˈbaʊnd}; **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 ^{ˈbɪn-dɪŋ} *n*: something (as a ski fastening, a cover, or an edging fabric) used to bind
binge ^{ˈbɪŋj} *n*: SPREE
binge *vb* **binged; bing-e-ing or bing-ing**: to go on a binge and esp. an eating binge — **bing-er** *n*
bin-go ^{ˈbɪŋ-ɡə} *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 ^{ˈbɪ-nɪ-kəl} *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 ^{ˌbɪ-nə-ˈkyl-ər, bə-ˈ} *adj*: of, relating to, or adapted to the use of both eyes — **bin-oc-u-lar-ly** *adv*
bin-oc-u-lar ^{ˌbɪ-nə-ˈkyl-ər, bɪ-ˈ} *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 ^{ˌbi-nə-mē-əl} *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 — **bi-nomial** *adj*
bio-chem-is-try ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈke-mə-strē} *n*: chemistry that deals with the chemical compounds and processes occurring in living things — **bio-chem-i-cal** ^{-mi-kəl} *adj or n* — **bio-chem-ist** ^{-mɪst} *n*
bio-de-grad-able ^{ˌdi-ˈgrɑ-də-bəl} *adj*: capable of being broken down esp. into innocuous products by the actions of living things (as microorganisms) (a ~ detergent) — **bio-de-grad-a-bil-i-ty** ^{-grɑ-də-ˈbi-lə-tē} *n* — **bio-de-gra-da-tion** ^{-de-grɑ-ˈdɑ-shən} *n* — **bio-de-grad-e** ^{-di-ˈgrɑd} *vb*
bio-di-vers-ity ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈvɜr-sə-ti, -dɪ-} *n*: biological diversity in an environment as indicated by numbers of different species of plants and animals
bio-eth-ics ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈθɪks} *n*: the ethics of biological research and its applications esp. in medicine — **bio-eth-i-cal** ^{-e-θi-kəl} *adj* — **bio-eth-i-cist** ^{-e-θə-sɪst} *n*
bio-feed-back ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈfed-bæk} *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 ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈdʒi-ə-ˈgrɑ-fē} *n*: a branch of biology that deals with the distribution of plants and animals — **bio-ge-og-ra-pher** *n*
bi-og-ra-phy ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈgrɑ-fē, bē-} *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** ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈgrɑ-fi-kəl} *also* **bi-og-raph-ic** ^{-fɪk} *adj*
biol *abbr* biologic; biological; biologist; biology
bi-ol-og-i-cal ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈlɑ-ʒi-kəl} *also* **bi-ol-og-ic** ^{-jɪk} *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** ^{-lɪ-k(ə)-lɪ} *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 ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈlɑ-ʒi} *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** ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈlɑ-ʒɪst} *n*
bio-med-i-cal ^{ˌbi-ə-ˈme-di-kəl} *adj*: of, relating to, or involving biological, medical, and physical science
bi-on-ic ^{ˌbi-ə-nɪk} *adj*: having normal biological ca-