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beach-com-ber (bēch/kō'mār) *n.* 1. One who scavenges along beaches. 2. A seaside vacationer.

beach-head (bēch/hēd') *n.* 1. A position on an enemy shoreline captured by troops in advance of an invading force. 2. A first achievement that opens the way; foothold.

beacon (bē'kōn) *n.* 1. A lighthouse. 2. A radio transmitter that emits a guidance signal for aircraft. 3. A source of guidance. 4. A signal fire. [*< OE bæcen.*]

bead (bēd) *n.* 1a. A small piece of material pierced for stringing. **b. beads** A necklace made of beads. **c. beads** A rosary. 2. A small round object, as: **a.** A drop of moisture: *beads of sweat.* **b.** A knoblike forward sight on a firearm. *v.* To decorate with or collect into beads.

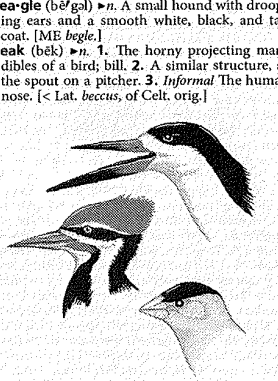
—idiom: draw (or get) a bead on To take careful aim at. [*< OE gahēd, prayer.*]

beadle (bēd'l) *n.* A former minor parish official in an English church. [*< OE byddel.*]

beady (bē'dē) *adj.* *-ier, -iest* 1. Small, round, and shiny: *beady eyes.* 2. Decorated with beads.

beagle (bē'gōl) *n.* A small hound with drooping ears and a smooth white, black, and tan coat. [*ME begle.*]

beak (bēk) *n.* 1. The horny projecting mandibles of a bird; bill. 2. A similar structure, as the spout on a pitcher. 3. *Informal* The human nose. [*< Lat. beccus, of Celt. orig.*]



beak
from top to bottom: black skimmer, pileated woodpecker, and American goldfinch

beaker (bē'kār) *n.* 1. A wide glass cylinder with a pouring lip, used as a laboratory container. 2. A large, wide-mouthed drinking cup. [*< Med.Lat. bicārius.*]

beam (bēm) *n.* 1. A horizontal bar or support, esp. one used in construction. 2a. The maximum breadth of a ship. **b.** The side of a ship. 3a. A ray of light. **b.** A concentrated stream of particles or waves: *a beam of protons.* *v.* 1. To radiate; shine. 2. To emit or transmit (e.g., a signal). 3. To smile expansively. [*< OE beam.*]

bean (bēn) *n.* 1a. Any of various twining plants with edible pods and seeds. **b.** A seed or pod of a bean plant. 2. Any of various plants related to or suggestive of beans, including the soybean and coffee bean. 3. *Slang* A person's head. 4. *beans* *Slang* A small amount: *I don't know beans about investing.* *v.* *Slang* To hit

on the head. **—idiom:** spill the beans To disclose a secret. [*< OE bean.*]

bean-bag (bēn/'bāg) *n.* 1. A small bag filled with dried beans and thrown in games. 2. An article, such as a chair, that is constructed as a bag filled with small pellets.

bean ball *n.* Baseball A pitch aimed at the batter's head.

bean curd *n.* Tofu.

bean-ie (bē'nē) *n.* A small brimless cap.

bean-o (bē'nō) *n., pl. -os* A form of bongo, esp. one using beans as markers.

bean sprouts *pl.n.* The tender, edible seedlings of certain bean plants.

bear (bār) *v.* **bore** (bōr), **borne** (bōrn) or **born** (bōrn), **bearing** 1a. To carry (something) on one's person from one place to another. **b.** To move from one place to another while containing or supporting (something); transport: *a train bearing grain.* 2. To carry or hold in the mind over time; harbor: *bear a grudge.* 3. To have as a visible characteristic or attribute: *a letter bearing her name.* 4. To conduct (oneself): *bore herself with dignity.* 5a. To hold up; support: *This wall bears the weight of the roof.* **b.** To be accountable for; assume: *bearing heavy responsibilities.* 6. To endure: *couldn't bear the pain.* 7. To warrant: *bears investigation.* 8. To have relevance; apply: *We studied how psychology bears on politics.* 9. *p.part.* **born** To give birth to. 10. To yield: *bear flowers.* See Synonyms at produce. 11. To offer; render: *bear witness.* 12. To proceed in a specified direction: *bear left.* **—phrasal verbs:** bear down 1. To exert muscular pressure downward, as in birthing a baby. 2. To advance in a threatening manner: *The ship bore down on us.* 3. To apply maximum effort and concentration. **bear out** To prove right; confirm. **—idioms:** bear a resemblance To be, appear, or function like. bear in mind To remember: *Bear in mind that it will be cold.* [*< OE bearan.*] **—bear-able adj.** **—bear-ably adv.**

bear² (bār) *n.* 1. Any of various large, usu. omnivorous mammals having a shaggy coat and short tail. 2. A large, clumsy, or ill-mannered person. 3. One that sells securities or commodities in expectation of falling prices. 4. Something that is difficult or unpleasant: *The final exam was a bear.* [*< OE beara.*] **—bear-ish adj.**

beard (bīrd) *n.* 1. A growth of hair on the chin, cheeks, and throat of a person, esp. a man. 2. A hairy or hairlike growth, as on certain animals and plants. *v.* To confront boldly. [*< OE.*] **—bearded adj.**

bearer (bār'ār) *n.* 1. One that carries or supports. 2. One that holds a check or note for payment.

bear hug *n.* A rough, tight hug.

bearing (bār'ing) *n.* 1. Deportment; demeanor. 2. A device that supports, guides, and reduces the friction of motion between fixed and moving machine parts. 3. Something that supports weight. 4. Direction, esp. angular direction: measured using geographical or celestial reference lines. 5. often **bearings** Awareness of one's position relative to one's surroundings. 6. Relevant relationship: *That has no bearing on our work.* 7. A heraldic emblem.

béarnaise sauce (bār-nāz', bār'ār-, -ar-) *n.* A

sauce of butter and egg yolks that is flavored with herbs. [*Fr. béarnaise, of Béarn, former region of France.*]

bearskin (bār'skīn') *n.* 1. Something, such as a rug, made from the skin of a bear. 2. A tall military hat made of black fur.

beast (bēst) *n.* 1. An animal, esp. a large four-footed mammal. 2. A brutal person. [*< Lat. bestia.*]

beast-ly (bēst'lē) *adj.* *-li-er, -li-est* 1. Of or like a beast; bestial. 2. Very disagreeable; nasty: *beastly behavior.* **—beast/ly-ness n.**

beat (bēt) *v.* **beat, beat-en** (bēt'n) or **beat, beating** 1a. To strike repeatedly; pound. **b.** To subject to repeated physical abuse; batter. 2. To flap, esp. wings. 3. To sound by striking: *beat a drum.* 4a. To shape by blows; forge. **b.** To make by trampling: *beat a path.* 5. To mix rapidly: *beat eggs.* 6. To pulsate; throb. 7. To defeat. 8. To strike against repeatedly and with force; pound: *waves beating against the shore.* 9. *Informal* To be better than: *Riding beats walking.* 10. *Slang* To baffle; *It beats me.* 11. *Informal a.* To circumvent: *beat the traffic.* **b. To arrive or finish before (another). *n.* 1. A stroke or blow. 2. A pulsation; throb. 3. A steady succession of units of rhythm. 4. An area regularly covered, as by a reporter or police officer. *adj.* *Informal* Worn-out; fatigued. **—phrasal verb:** beat off To drive away. **—idioms:** beat around (or about) the bush To fail to confront a subject directly. *beat it* *Slang* To leave hurriedly. [*< OE bēatan.*] **—beater n.****

Syns: batter, hammer, pound, pummel, thrash *v.*

be-a-tific (bē'a-tīf'ik) *adj.* Showing exalted joy or bliss: *a beatific smile.* [*< Lat. beātus, blessed.*] **—be-a-tifi-cal-ly adv.**

be-a-ti-fy (bē-at'ē-ē) *v.* *-fied, -fy-ing* 1. *Rom. Cath. Ch.* To proclaim (a deceased person) to be worthy of religious veneration. 2. To exalt; glorify. **—be-a-ti-fi-ca-tion n.**

be-a-ti-tude (bē-at'ē-tōōd') *n.* Supreme blessedness.

beat-nik (bēt'nik) *n.* A member of a group or movement esp. of the 1950s and early 1960s stressing nonconformity to social and cultural mores. [*beat (generation), unconventional group of the 1950s and 1960s + -NIK.*]

Be-a-trix (bā'trīks', bē't-) *b.* 1938. Queen of the Netherlands (assumed the throne 1980).

beat-up (bēt'ūp) *adj.* *Slang* Damaged or worn through neglect or heavy use.

beau (bō) *n., pl. beaux* or **beaux** (bōz) 1. A suitor. 2. A dandy; fop. [*Fr. handsome.*]

Beau-fort Sea (bō'fōrt) A part of the Arctic Ocean N of NE AK and NW Canada.

beau geste (bō zhēs't) *n., pl. beaux gestes* or **beau gestes** (bō zhēs't) 1. A gracious gesture. 2. A gesture noble in form but meaningless in substance. [*Fr.*]

Beau-har-nais (bō-ār-nā'), **Josephine de** 1763-1814. Empress of the French (1804-09) as the wife of Napoleon I.

beau idéal (bō'ī-dē'al) *n., pl. beau ideals* An ideal type or model. [*Fr. beau idéal.*]

beau monde (bō mōnd', mōnd't) *n., pl. beaux mondes* (bō mōnd't) or **beau mondes** (bō mōnd't) Fashionable society. [*Fr.*]

beau-te-ous (byōō'tē-as) *adj.* Beautiful. **—beau-te-ous-ly adv.**

beau-ti-cian giving cosm

beau-ti-ful (bō-tē-ē-ē)

beau-ti-fy (bō-tē-ē-ē)

beau-ty (byōō-ē-ē)

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