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bead-*ing* *n* (1845) 1: a beaded molding 2: material or a part or a piece consisting of a bead 3: an openwork trimming 4: BEADWORK

bead-*le* **'bē-dēl *n* [ME *bedel* messenger, fr. OE *bydel*; akin to OHG *butil* bailiff, OE *beodan* to command — more at BID] (1581): a minor parish official whose duties include ushering and preserving order at services and sometimes civil functions

bead-*roll* **'bē-d-rōl *n* [fr. the reading in church of a list of names of persons for whom prayers are to be said] (1529) 1: a list of names: CATALOG 2: ROSARY

beads-*man* **'bēdz-mən *n* (13c) *archaic*: one who prays for another

bead-*work* **'bēd-wɜrk *n* (1751) 1: ornamental work in beads 2: joinery beading

beady **'bē-dē *adj* **bead-*-ier***; **-est** (1826) 1 a: resembling beads b: small, round, and shiny with interest or greed (~ eyes) 2: marked by bubbles or beads (a ~ liquor) — **bead-*-ily*** **'bē-dē-lē *adv*

bea-*-gle* **'bē-glē *n* [ME *begle*] (15c): any of a breed of small short-legged smooth-coated often black, white, and tan hounds

beak **'bēk *n* [ME *bec*, fr. AF, fr. L *beccus*, of Gaulish origin] (13c) 1 a: the bill of a bird; *esp.*: a strong short broad bill b (1): the elongated sucking mouth of some insects (as the true bugs) (2): any of various rigid projecting mouth structures (as of a turtle) c: the human nose 2: a pointed structure or formation: a: a metal-pointed beam projecting from the bow esp. of an ancient galley for piercing an enemy ship b: the spout of a vessel c: a continuous slight architectural projection ending in an arris — see MOLDING illustration d: a process suggesting the beak of a bird 3 *chiefly Brit* e: MAGISTRATE b: HEADMASTER — **beaked** **'bēkt *adj* — **beaky** **'bē-kē *adj*

beaked whale *n* (1755): any of a widely distributed family (Ziphiidae) of medium-sized toothed whales that have an elongated snout and a small dorsal fin

bea-*-ker* **'bē-kər *n* [ME *biker*, fr. ON *bikarr*, prob. fr. OS *bikeri*, fr. ML *bicarium*] (14c) 1: a large drinking cup that has a wide mouth and is sometimes supported on a standard 2: a deep widemouthed thin-walled vessel usu. with a lip for pouring that is used esp. in science laboratories

be-*-all* and **end-*-all*** **'bē-ɔl-ən(d)-'end-ɔl *n* (1605) 1: prime cause: essential element 2: TOTALITY 1

beam **'bēm *n* [ME *beem*, fr. OE *bēam* tree, beam; akin to OHG *boum* tree] (bef. 12c) 1 a: a long piece of heavy often squared timber suitable for use in construction b: a wood or metal cylinder in a loom on which the warp is wound c: the part of a plow to which handles, standard, and coulter are attached d: the bar of a balance from which scales hang e: one of the principal horizontal supporting members (as of a building or ship) <a steel ~ supporting a floor>; also: BOOM, SPAR (the ~ of a crane) f: the extreme width of a ship at the widest part g: an oscillating lever on a central axis receiving motion at one end from an engine connecting rod and transmitting it at the other 2 a: a ray or shaft of light b: a collection of nearly parallel rays (as X rays) or a stream of particles (as electrons) c: a constant directional radio signal transmitted for the guidance of pilots; also: the course indicated by a radio beam 3: the main stem of a deer's antler 4: the width of the buttocks — **on the beam** 1: following a guiding beam 2: proceeding or operating correctly

beam *vt* (15c) 1: to emit in beams or as a beam 2: to support with beams 3 a: to transmit esp. by satellite: BROADCAST b: to transmit (data) electronically c: to direct to a particular audience ~ *vi* 1: to send out beams of light 2: to smile with joy

beam-*-ends* **'bēm-'ɛnd(d)z *n pl* (1750): the ends of a ship's beams — **on her beam-*-ends***: inclined so much on one side that the beams approach a vertical position

beam-*-ish* **'bē-mɪʃ *adj* (1870): beaming and bright with optimism, promise, or achievement (<a ~ boy> — **beam-*-ish-ly*** *adv*

beam sea *n* (1861): a sea whose surface motion is approximately at a right angle to the course of a vessel

beam splitter *n* (1935): a mirror or prism or a combination of the two that is used to divide a beam of radiation into two or more parts

beamy **'bē-mē *adj* (14c) 1: emitting beams of light: RADIANT 2: broad in the beam (<a ~ cargo ship>)

bean **'bēn *n* [ME *bene*, fr. OE *bēan*; akin to OHG *bōna* bean] (bef. 12c) 1 a: BROAD BEAN b: the seed of any of various erect or climbing plants (as of the genera *Phaseolus* and *Vigna*) of the legume family other than the broad bean c: a plant bearing beans d: an immature bean pod used as a vegetable 2 a: a valueless item b *pl*: the least amount <didn't know ~s about it> 3: any of various seeds or fruits that resemble beans or bean pods (<coffee ~s>); also: a plant producing these 4 a *pl*: EXUBERANCE — used in the phrase *full of beans* b *pl*: NONSENSE, BUNKUM — used in the phrase *full of beans* 5: HEAD, BRAIN 6: a protuberance on the upper mandible of waterfowl — see DUCK illustration

bean *vt* (1910): to strike (a person) on the head with an object

bean-*-bag* **'bēn-'bæg *n* (1871) 1: a cloth bag partially filled typically with dried beans and used as a toy 2: any of various pellet-filled bags used as furniture (as a chair) or household articles (as an ashray base)

bean-*-ball* **-bɔl *n* (ca. 1905): a pitch thrown at a batter's head

bean counter *n* (1975): a person involved in corporate or government financial decisions and esp. one reluctant to spend money

bean curd *n* (ca. 1885): TOFU

bean-*-ery* **'bēn-rē, 'bē-nə-*n*, *pl* **-er-ies** (1887): RESTAURANT

bean-*-ie* **'bē-nē *n* [prob. fr. *'bean* (head) + *-ie*] (1904): a small round tight-fitting skullcap

beano **'bē-(j)nō *n*, *pl* **beanos** [alter. of *beanfeast* festive occasion] (1891) *Brit*: a noisy festive celebration

beano *n*, *pl* **beanos** [by alter.] (1935): BINGO

bean-*-pole* **'bēn-'pōl *n* (1798) 1: a pole up which bean vines may climb 2: a tall thin person

bean sprouts *n pl* (1921): the sprouts of bean seeds esp. of the mung bean used as a vegetable

bean thread *n* (1977): CELLOPHANE NOODLE

bear **'ber *n*, *pl* **bears** *often attrib* [ME *bere*, fr. OE *bera*; akin to OE *brūn* brown — more at BROWN] (bef. 12c) 1 or *pl* **bear**: any of a fam-

ily to string together like beads ~ *vt*: to form into a bead ~ *vb*: to carry, bring forth, fr. OE *beran*; akin to OHG *beran* to carry, L *ferre*, Gk *pherein*] *vt* (bef. 12c) 1 a: to move while holding up and supporting b: to be equipped or furnished with c: BEHAVE, CONDUCT (<~ing himself well> d: to have as a feature or characteristic (<~s a likeness to her grandmother> e: to give as testimony (<~ false witness> f: to have as an identification (<~ore the name of John> g: to hold in the mind or emotions (<~ malice> h: DISSEMINATE 1: LEAD, ESCORT j: RENDER, GIVE 2 a: to give birth to b: to produce as yield c (1): to permit growth of (2): CONTAIN (<oil-bearing shale> 3 a: to support the weight of: SUSTAIN b: to accept or allow oneself to be subjected to esp. without giving way (<couldn't ~ the pain> <I can't ~ seeing you cry>) c: to call for as suitable or essential (<it ~s watching> d: to hold above, on top, or aloft e: to admit of: ALLOW f: ASSUME, ACCEPT 4: THRUST, PRESS ~ *vi* 1: to produce fruit: YIELD 2 a: to force one's way b: to extend in a direction indicated or implied c: to be situated: LIE d: to become directed e: to go or incline in an indicated direction 3: to support a weight or strain — often used with *up* 4 a: to exert influence or force b: APPLY, PERTAIN — often used with *on* or *upon* (<facts ~ing on the question>) — **bear a hand**: to join in and help out — **bear arms** 1: to carry or possess arms 2: to serve as a soldier — **bear fruit**: to come to satisfying fruition, production, or development — **bear in mind**: to think of esp. as a warning: REMEMBER — **bear with**: to be indulgent, patient, or forbearing with

syn BEAR, SUFFER, ENDURE, ABIDE, TOLERATE, STAND mean to put up with something trying or painful. BEAR usu. implies the power to sustain without flinching or breaking (<forced to bear a tragic loss>). SUFFER often suggests acceptance or passivity rather than courage or patience in bearing (<suffering many insults>). ENDURE implies continuing firm or resolute through trials and difficulties (<endured years of rejection>). ABIDE suggests acceptance without resistance or protest (<cannot abide their rudeness>). TOLERATE suggests overcoming or successfully controlling an impulse to resist, avoid, or resent something injurious or distasteful (<refused to tolerate such treatment>). STAND emphasizes even more strongly the ability to bear without discomposure or flinching (<unable to stand teasing>).

bear-able **'ber-ə-bəl *adj* (ca. 1550): capable of being borne — **bear-abil-*-ity*** **'ber-ə-'bi-lə-tē *n* — **bear-ably** **-blē *adv*

bear-baiting **'ber-'bā-tɪŋ *n* (14c): the practice of setting dogs on a chained bear

bear-ber-*-ry* **-ber-'ē, -'ber-rē *n* (1625): a trailing evergreen plant (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*) of the heath family with astringent foliage and red berries

bear claw *n* (1936): a filled pastry that is cut and fanned to resemble a bear's foot

beard **'bɜrd *n* [ME *berd*, fr. OE *beard*; akin to OHG *bart* beard, L *barba*] (bef. 12c) 1: the hair that grows on a man's face often excluding the mustache 2: a hairy or bristly appendage or tuft 3: FRONT 7a — **bearded** **'bɜr-dəd *adj* — **bearded-ness** *n* — **beard-*-less*** **'bɜrd-ləs *adj*

beard *vt* (15c) 1: to confront and oppose with boldness, resolution, and often effrontery: DEFEY 2: to furnish with a beard

bearded collie *n* (1880): any of a breed of large herding dogs of Scottish origin that have a long rough coat and drooping ears

bearded iris *n* (1923): any of numerous wild or cultivated irises with a growth of short hairs on each fall

bearded seal *n* (1853): a large arctic hair seal (*Erigonathus barbatus*) with a tuft of long whiskers on each side of the muzzle

bear down *vt* (14c): OVERCOME, OVERWHELM ~ *vi*: to exert full strength and concentrated attention — **bear down on** 1: EMPHASIZE 2: to weigh heavily on: BURDEN

bear-*-tongue* **'bɜrd-'tɒŋ *n* (1821): PENSTEMON

bear-*-er* **'ber-ər *n* (13c): one that bears: as a: PORTER 1 b: a plant yielding fruit c: PALLBEARER d: one holding a check, draft, bond, or other order for payment esp. if marked payable to bearer — often used attributively (<~ bonds>)

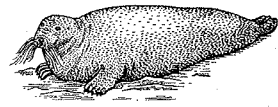
bear grass *n* (1750): any of several plants (genera *Yucca*, *Nolina*, or *Xerophyllum*) of the lily or agave families chiefly of the southern and western U.S. with foliage resembling coarse blades of grass

bear-*-hug* **'ber-'hʌg *vt* (1927): to embrace in a bear hug

bear hug *n* (1921): a rough tight embrace

bearing *n* (13c) 1: the manner in which one bears or comports oneself 2 a: the act, power, or time of bringing forth offspring or fruit b: a product of bearing: CROP 3 a: an object, surface, or point that supports b: a machine part in which another part (as a journal or pin) turns or slides 4: a figure borne on a heraldic field 5: PRESURE, THRUST 6 a: the situation or horizontal direction of one point with respect to another or to the compass b: a determination of position c *pl*: comprehension of one's position, environment, or situation d: RELATION, CONNECTION; also: PURPORT 7: the part of a structural member that rests on its supports

syn BEARING, DEPARTMENT, DEMEANOR, MIEN, MANNER, CARRIAGE mean the outward manifestation of personality or attitude. BEARING is the most general of these words but now usu. implies characteristic posture (<a woman of regal bearing>). DEPARTMENT suggests actions or behavior as formed by breeding or training (<your department was atrocious>). DEMEANOR suggests one's attitude toward others as expressed in outward behavior (<the haughty demeanor of the headwaiter>). MIEN is a literary term referring both to bearing and demeanor (<a



bearded seal