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beach-comb-er (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 beacen.*]

bead (bed) *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.

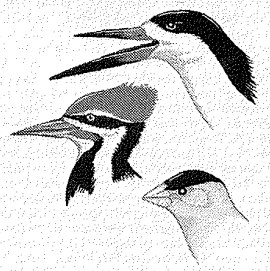
—*idiom:* draw (or get) a bead on To take careful aim at. [*< OE gabad, prayer.*]

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

beady (bē'dē) *adj.* -er, -est 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. bicarius.*]

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 firming cap.

bean-o (bē'nō) *n., pl. -os* A form of bino, 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 (bird) *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', bā'ār-, -ōr-) *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. beatus, blessed.*] —*be-a-tifi-cal-ly adv.*

beat-ify (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-at'i-fi-ca-tion n.*

be-a-ti-tude (bē-at'i-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 zhēst') *n., pl. beaux gestes or beau gestes (bō zhēst') 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' i-dē'al) *n., pl. beau idéals* An ideal type or model. [*Fr. beau idéal.*]

beau monde (bō mōnd', mōnd') *n., pl. beaux mondes* (bō mōnd') or *beau mondes* (bō mōndz') Fashionable society. [*Fr.*]

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

beau-ti-cian giving cosm

beau-ti-ful (*beau-ti-*) *adj.*

beau-ti-ty (*beau-ti-*) *n.* —*beau-ti-*

beau-ty (byōō'tē-ōs) *n.* —*beau-*

beau-ty-ful (*beau-ti-*) *adj.*

beau-ty-ful-ly (*beau-ti-*) *adv.*

beau-ty-ful-ness (*beau-ti-*) *n.*

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