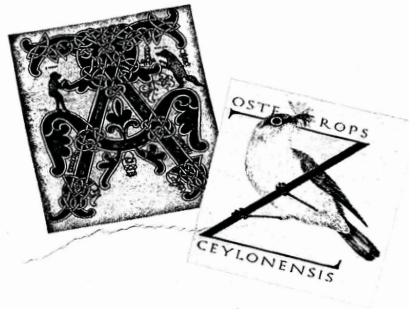


The
**American
Heritage® Dictionary**
of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



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bulimia nervosa | bulldozer

from Greek *bulimìa*: *bous*, ox; see *g'ou-* in Appendix I + *limos*, hunger. —*bulimic* *adj.* & *n.*

bulimia nervosa (nûr-vô'ss) *n.* See *bulimia* (sense 1). [New Latin *bulimia nervosa*: *bulimia*, *bulimia* + *nervosa*, feminine of *nervosus*, nervous.]

bulk (bûlk) *n.* 1. Size, mass, or volume, especially when very large. **2a.** A distinct mass or portion of matter, especially a large one; *the dark bulk of buildings against the sky*. **b.** The body of a human, especially when large or muscular. **3.** The major portion or greater part. *"The great bulk of necessary work can never be anything but painful"* (Bertrand Russell). **4.** See *fiber* (sense 6). **5.** Thickness of paper or cardboard in relation to weight. **6.** A ship's cargo. *♦ v.* **bulked, bulk•ing, bulks** —*intr.* **1.** To be or appear to be massive in terms of size, volume, or importance; loom: *Safety considerations bulked large during development of the new spacecraft.* **2.** To grow or increase in size or importance. **3.** To cohere or form a mass: *Certain paper bulks well.* —*tr.* **1.** To cause to swell or expand. **2.** To cause to cohere or form a mass. *♦ adj.* Being large in mass, quantity, or volume: *a bulk buy; a bulk mailing.* —*phrasal verb:* **bulk up** To gain weight by gaining muscle; *dietary supplements that helped the weightlifters bulk up.* —*idiom:* **in bulk** **1.** Unpackaged; loose. **2.** In large numbers, amounts, or volume. [Middle English, perhaps partly alteration of *boak*, belly, trunk of the body (from Old English *būc*) and partly from Old Norse *bulki*, cargo, heap; see *bhel-* in Appendix I.]

bulk•head (bûlk'hêd') *n.* **1a.** One of the upright partitions dividing a ship into compartments and serving to add structural rigidity and to prevent the spread of leakage or fire. **b.** A partition or wall serving a similar purpose in a vehicle, such as an aircraft or spacecraft. **2.** A wall or an embankment, as in a mine or along a waterfront, that acts as a protective barrier. **3.** *Chiefly New England* A horizontal or sloping structure providing access to a cellar stairway. [*bulk*, stall, partition (perhaps of Scandinavian origin) + *HEAD*.]

bulky (bûl'kē) *adj.* **-ier, -iest** **1.** Having considerable bulk; massive. **2.** Of large size for its weight: *a bulky knit.* **3.** Clumsy to manage; unwieldy. —*bulkily* *adv.* —*bulkiness* *n.*

bull (bûl) *n.* **1a.** An adult male bovine mammal. **b.** The uncastrated adult male of domestic cattle. **c.** The male of certain other large animals, such as the alligator, elephant, or moose. **2.** An exceptionally large, strong, and aggressive person. **3a.** An optimist, especially regarding business conditions. **b.** A person who buys commodities or securities in anticipation of a rise in prices or who tries by speculative purchases to effect such a rise. **4.** *Slang* A police officer or detective. **5.** *Slang* a. Foolish, deceitful, or boastful language. **b.** Insolent talk or behavior. *♦ v.* **bulled, bul•ing, bulls** —*tr.* To push; force. —*intr.* To push ahead or through forcefully: *"He bulls through the press horde that encircles the car"* (Scott Turow). *♦ adj.* **1.** Male. **2.** Large and strong like a bull. **3.** Characterized by rising prices: *a bull market.* —*idiom:* **grab (or take) the bull by the horns** To deal with a problem directly and resolutely. [Middle English *bule*, from Old English *bula*, probably from Old Norse *bolli*. See *bhel-* in Appendix I.]

bull¹ (bûl) *n.* **1.** An official document issued by the pope and sealed with a bulla. **2.** The bulla used to seal such a document. [Middle English *bulle*, from Old French, from Medieval Latin *bulla*. See *BULLA*.]

bull² (bûl) *n.* A gross blunder in logical speech or expression. [Origin unknown.]

Bull (bûl) *n.* See *Taurus*.

Bull (bûl, bûl), **Ole Bornemann** 1810–1880. Norwegian violinist who toured extensively through the United States and attempted to found a Norwegian colony in Pennsylvania (1852).

bull, *abbr.* bulletin

bul•la (bûl'la) *n.*, pl. **bul•lae** (bûl'lae) **1.** A round seal affixed to a papal bull. **2.** *Pathology* A large blister or vesicle. [Medieval Latin, from Latin, bubble, seal.]

bul•lace (bûl'la) *n.* See *damson*. [Middle English *bolas*, from Anglo-Norman *bulace*, from Medieval Latin *bullicca*.]

bul•lae (bûl'lae) *n.* Plural of *bulla*.

bul•late (bûl'la) *adj.* Having a puckered or blistered appearance: *bulate leaves*. [Latin *bulātus*, from *bulla*, bubble.]

bul•bait•ing (bûl'bâi'ting) *n.* The formerly popular sport of setting dogs to attack a chained bull and especially to seize it by the nose.

bul•bat (bûl'bât') *n.* See *nighthawk* (sense 1a). [From its roaring sound in flight.]

bul•boat (bûl'bôt') *n.* A shallow, saucer-shaped skin boat used especially by Plains Indians for transporting possessions and sometimes persons across rivers or streams.

bul•dog (bûl'dôg', -dôg') *n.* **1.** Any of a breed of short-haired dog characterized by a large head, strong square jaws with dewlaps, and a stocky body. It was originally bred for bullbaiting. **2.** A short-barreled, large-caliber revolver or pistol. **3.** A heat-resistant material used to line puddling furnaces. **4.** *Chiefly British* A proctor's assistant at Oxford University or Cambridge University. *♦ adj.* Stubborn. *♦ tr.v.* **-dogged, -dogging, -dogs** *Western U.S.* To throw (a calf or steer) by seizing its horns and twisting its neck until the animal falls. —*bulldogger* *n.*

bul•doze (bûl'dôz') *v.* **-dozed, -doz•ing, -dozes** —*tr.* **1.** To clear, dig up, or move with a bulldozer. **2.** To treat in an abusive manner; bully. **3.** To coerce in an unsympathetic or cruel way. See synonyms at *intimidate*. **4.** To do away with; demolish: *"A massive bipartisan majority voted . . . to bulldoze the social programs of decades in the next 30 days"* (Peter Goldman). —*intr.* **1.** To operate a bulldozer. **2.** To proceed forcefully or insensitively: *"intends to bulldoze ahead with plans for extensive reconstruction"* (New York Times). [Perhaps from alteration of obsolete *bulldoze*, severe beating: *BULL* + *DOSE*.]

bulldozer (bûl'dô'zâr) *n.* **1.** A heavy, driver-operated machine

for clearing and grading land, usually having continuous treads and a broad hydraulic blade in front. **2.** An overbearing person; a bully.

bulldyke *n.* *Offensive* Used as a disparaging term for a lesbian, especially one exhibiting behavior associated with stereotypically masculine traits.

bul•let (bûl'it) *n.* **1a.** A usually metal projectile in the shape of a pointed cylinder or a ball that is expelled from a firearm, especially a rifle or handgun. **b.** Such a projectile in a metal casing; a cartridge. **2.** An object resembling a projectile in shape, action, or effect. **3.** *Printing* A heavy dot (•) used to highlight a particular passage. [French *bullette*, diminutive of *boule*, ball, from Old French, from Latin *bulla*.]

bul•let•ed (bûl'i-tîd) *adj.* *Printing* Highlighted or set off with bullets: *a bulleted list*.

bul•let•in (bûl'it-tîn, -tîn) *n.* **1.** A brief report, especially an official statement on a matter of public interest issued for immediate publication or broadcast. **2.** A brief update or summary of current news, as on television or radio or in a newspaper. **3.** A periodical, especially one published by an organization or society. **4.** A printed program, especially one listing the order of worship for a religious service: *a church bulletin*. *♦ tr.v.* **-tined, -tin•ing, -tins** To announce or make known by bulletin. [French, probably from Italian *bulletino*, diminutive of *bolletta*, bill, diminutive of *bolla*, bubble, bull, from Medieval Latin *bulla*. See *BULL*.]

bulletin board *n.* **1.** A board on which notices are posted. **2.** *Computer Science* A system that enables users to send or read electronic messages, files, and other data that are of general interest and addressed to no particular person.

bul•let•proof (bûl'it-prûf') *adj.* **1.** Impenetrable by bullets. **2.** *Informal* Impervious to assault, damage, or failure; guaranteed: *a bulletproof method; bulletproof arguments*. *♦ tr.v.* **-proofed, -proofing, -proofs** To make impenetrable by bullets.

bullet train *n.* A high-speed passenger train.

bull fiddle *n.* See *double bass*.

bull•fight (bûl'fit') *n.* A public spectacle, performed especially in Spain, Portugal, and parts of Latin America, in which a fighting bull is engaged in a series of traditional maneuvers culminating usually with the ceremonial execution of the bull by sword. In Portugal the bull is often fought from horseback and is not killed. —*bullfight'er* *n.* —*bullfight'ing* *n.*

bull•finch (bûl'fînch') *n.* **1.** A European bird (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) having a short thick bill and in the male a red breast, blue-gray back, and black head, wings, and tail. **2.** Any of several similar finches.

bull•frog (bûl'frôg', -frôg') *n.* Any of several large, heavy-bodied frogs, chiefly of the genus *Rana* and especially *R. catesbeiana*, native to North America and having a characteristic deep resonant croak.

bul•head (bûl'hêd') *n.* **1.** Any of several large-headed North American freshwater catfishes of the genus *Ictalurus*. **2.** Any of several fishes of the family Cottidae, such as the sculpin and the miller's thumb. **3.** *Upper Northern U.S.* See *catfish*.

bul•head•ed (bûl'hêd'id) *adj.* Foolishly or irrationally stubborn; headstrong. See synonyms at *obstinate*. —*bul/head'ed•ily* *adv.*

bul•horn (bûl'hôrn') *n.* A portable device consisting of a microphone attached to a loudspeaker, used especially to amplify the voice.

bul•lion (bûl'yôn) *n.* **1a.** Gold or silver considered with respect to quantity rather than value. **b.** Gold or silver in the form of bars, ingots, or plates. **2.** A heavy lace trimming made of twisted gold or silver threads. [Middle English, ingot of precious metal, from Anglo-Norman, from Old French *billon* (from *bille*, stick; see *BILLON*) and from Old French *bouillon*, bubble on the surface of boiling liquid (from *boillir*, to boil; see *BOIL*).]

bul•lish (bûl'lish) *adj.* **1a.** Having a heavy muscular physique. **b.** Bullheaded. **2a.** Causing, expecting, or characterized by rising stock market prices: *"Cheaper energy is bullish because it stimulates growth"* (Eric Gelman). **b.** Optimistic or confident: *bullish on the prospects of reaching a negotiated settlement.* —*bullishly* *adv.* —*bullishness* *n.*

bul•mas•tiff (bûl'mâs'tif) *n.* A large, heavy-set, powerful dog of a breed developed from the bulldog and the mastiff.

Bull Moose *n.* A member or supporter of the U.S. Progressive Party founded to support the presidential candidacy of Theodore Roosevelt in 1912. [From the party's emblem.]

Bull Moose Party *n.* See *Progressive Party* (sense 1).

bul•necked (bûl'nêkt') *adj.* Having a short thick neck. —*bul/neck'* *n.*

bul•nose (bûl'nôz') *n.* A rounded edge, corner, or projection, as on a staircase or paving stone.

bul•lock (bûl'lak) *n.* **1.** A castrated bull; a steer. **2.** A young bull. [Middle English *bullok*, from Old English *buluc*. See *bhel-* in Appendix I.]

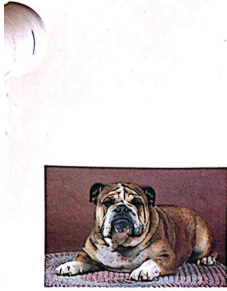
bul•lock's heart (bûl'laks) *n.* See *custard apple*.

Bul•lock's oriole (bûl'laks) *n.* A subspecies (*Icterus galbula bullockii*) of the northern oriole in its western range, distinguished from the Baltimore oriole in the male by its orange cheeks and large white wing patches and in the female by its whiter belly. [After William Bullock, 19th-century British naturalist.]

bul•pen (bûl'pên') *n.* **1.** *Baseball* An area where relief pitchers warm up during a game. **b.** The relief pitchers of a team considered as a group. **2.** A temporary holding area for prisoners, as in a courthouse. **3.** An open area in an office with workspace for a number of employees. [Earlier, stockade, exercise area for prisoners.]

bul•ring (bûl'ring') *n.* A circular arena for bullfights.

bul•roar•er (bûl'rôr'ôr, -rôr') *n.* A small wooden slat attached to a string that makes a roaring noise when whirled.



bulldog



bulldozer



bullet train



bullfinch
male bullfinch
Pyrrhula pyrrhula