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# The New Oxford American Dictionary

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**bul·bul** ['bʊl,bʊl] *n.* a tropical African and Asian songbird that typically has a melodious voice and drab plumage. Many kinds have a crest.  
 \*Family Pycnonotidae: several genera and numerous species.

-ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from Persian, of imitative origin.

**Bulgari·an** [bʊl'gɛəriən], Nikolai (Aleksandrovich) (1895–1975), Soviet statesman, chairman of the Council of Ministers (premier) 1955–58. He was vice-premier in the government of Georgi Malenkov in 1953 and shared the premiership with Khrushchev in 1955.

**Bulgar** ['bʊlgər; 'bʊl-] *n.* a member of a Slavic people who settled in what is now Bulgaria in the 7th century.

-ORIGIN from medieval Latin *Bulgarus*, from Old Church Slavonic *Blugarinŭ*.

**bulgar** ['bʊlgər] (also **bulgur**, **bulgar wheat**) *n.* a cereal food made from whole wheat partially boiled then dried. [as adj.] *bulgar wheat*.

-ORIGIN 1930s: from Turkish *bulgur* 'bruised grain.'

**Bulgari·ya** [bʊl'gɛəriə] a country in southeastern Europe, on the western shores of the Black Sea; pop. 8,798,000; capital, Sofia; official language, Bulgarian.

Part of the Ottoman Empire from the 14th century, Bulgaria remained under Turkish rule until the late 19th century, becoming independent in 1908. A communist state was set up by the Soviet Union after World War II, and a multiparty democratic system was introduced in 1989.

-ORIGIN named after the Bulgars (see **BULGAR**).



**Bulgari·an** [bʊl'gɛəriən; 'bʊl-] *n.* 1 a native or national of Bulgaria.  
 2 the South Slavic language spoken in Bulgaria.

*adj.* of or relating to Bulgaria, its people, or their language.

**bulge** [bʊdʒ] *n.* a rounded swelling or protuberance that distorts a flat surface.

■ (esp. in a military context) a piece of land that projects outward from an otherwise regular line: *the advance created an eastward-facing bulge in the line.* ■ [in sing.] informal a temporary unusual increase in number or size: *a bulge in the birth rate.*

*v.* [intrans.] swell or protrude to an unnatural or incongruous extent: *the veins in his neck bulged!* [as adj.] (*bulging*) *he stared with bulging eyes.*

■ be full of and distended with: *a briefcase bulging with documents.*

-DERIVATIVES **bulgy** *adj.*

-ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *boulge*, from Latin *bulga* (see **BUDGET**). The original meaning was 'wallet or bag'; later 'a ship's bilge' (early 17th cent.); other senses presumably derived from association with the shape of a full bag.

**bulgur** ['bʊlgər] *n.* variant spelling of **BULGAR**.

**bulim·arex·ia** [bʊlɪ'mæ'reksɪə] *n.* another term for *bulimia nervosa* (see **BULIMIA**).

-DERIVATIVES **bulim·arex·ic** [-'reksɪk] *adj.* & *n.*

-ORIGIN 1970s: blend of **BULIMIA** and **ANOREXIA**.

**bulim·ia** [bʊlɪ'miə] *n.* insatiable overeating as a medical condition, in particular:

■ (also *bulimia nervosa*) an emotional disorder involving distortion of body image and an obsessive desire to lose weight, in which bouts of extreme overeating are followed by depression and self-induced vomiting, purging, or fasting. Also called **BINGE-PURGE SYNDROME**. ■ an eating disorder in which a large quantity of food is consumed in a short period of time, often followed by feelings of guilt or shame. Also called **BINGE-EATING SYNDROME**.

-DERIVATIVES **bulimic** [-'lemɪk] *adj.* & *n.*

-ORIGIN late Middle English (as *bolime*, later *bulimiy*): modern Latin, or from medieval Latin *bulimias*, from Greek *bulimia* 'ravenous hunger,' from *bous* 'ox' + *limos* 'hunger.'

**bulk** [bʌlk] *n.* the mass or magnitude of something large: *the sheer bulk of the bags.*

■ a large mass or shape, for example of a building or a heavy body: *he moved quickly in spite of his bulk.* ■ [as adj.] large in quantity or amount: *bulk orders of more than 100 copies.* ■ (the bulk) the majority or greater part of something: *the bulk of the traffic had passed.*

■ roughage in food: *bread and potatoes supply energy, essential protein, and bulk.* ■ cargo that is an unpackaged mass such as grain, oil, or milk.

*v.* 1 [intrans.] be or seem to be of great size or importance: *territorial questions bulked large in diplomatic relations.*

2 [trans.] treat (a product) so that its quantity appears greater than it in fact is: *traders were bulking up their flour with chalk.*

■ [intrans.] (**bulk up**) build up body mass, typically in training for athletic events.

-PHRASES in **bulk** 1 (esp. of goods) in large quantities, usually at a reduced price: *buying tomatoes in bulk from a local farmer.* 2 (of a cargo or commodity) loose; not packaged: *sugar is imported in bulk and bagged on the island.*

-ORIGIN Middle English: the senses 'cargo as a whole' and 'heap, large quantity' (the earliest recorded) are probably from Old Norse *bulki* 'cargo'; the origin of other senses remains uncertain, perhaps arising by alteration of obsolete *bank* 'belly, body'. The original senses are also reflected in the phrases *break bulk* and *in bulk*.

**bulk buy·ing** *n.* the purchase of goods in large amounts, typically at a discount.

-DERIVATIVES **bulk-buy** *v.*

**bulk car·rier** *n.* a ship that carries nonliquid cargoes such as grain or ore in bulk.

**bulker** ['bʌlkər] *n.* informal another term for **BULK CARRIER**.

**bulkhead** ['bʌlk,hed] *n.* a dividing wall or barrier between compartments in a ship, aircraft, or other vehicle.

-ORIGIN late 15th cent.: from Old Norse *bulkr* 'partition' + **HEAD**.

**bulk mail** *n.* a class of mail for sending out large numbers of identical items at a reduced rate.

**bulky** ['bʌlki] *adj.* (**bulkier**, **bulkiest**) taking up much space, typically inconveniently; large and unwieldy: *a bulky piece of luggage.*

■ (of a person) heavily built. ■ (of clothing) made of a thick yarn or fabric: *bulky sweaters*.

-DERIVATIVES **bulki·ly** [-'keɪli] *adv.*; **bulki·ness** *n.*

**bull**¹ [bʊl] *n.* 1 an uncastrated male bovine animal: [as adj.] *bull calves.*

■ a large male animal, esp. a whale or elephant. ■ (**the Bull**) the zodiacal sign or constellation Taurus.

2 Stock Market a person who buys shares hoping to sell them at a higher price later. Often contrasted with **BEAR**.

*adj.* [attrib.] (of a part of the body, esp. the neck) resembling the corresponding part of a male bovine animal in build and strength: *his bull neck and broad shoulders.*

*v.* 1 [with obj. and adverbial of direction] push or drive powerfully or violently: *he bullied the motorcycle clear of the tunnel* | [no obj., with adverbial of direction] *he was bullying his way through a mob of admirers.*

2 [intrans.] (**be bullying**) (of a cow) behave in a manner characteristic of being in heat.

-PHRASES like **a bull in a china shop** behaving recklessly and clumsily in a place or situation where one is likely to cause damage or injury. (like) **a red rag to a bull** see **RED**. **take the bull by the horns** deal bravely and decisively with a difficult, dangerous, or unpleasant situation.

-ORIGIN late Old English *byla* (recorded in place names), from Old Norse *buli*. Compare with **BULLOCK**.

**bull**² *n.* a papal edict.

-ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *bulle*, from Latin *bulla* 'bubble, rounded object' (in medieval Latin 'seal or sealed document').

**bull**³ *n.* informal stupid or untrue talk or writing; nonsense: *much of what he says is sheer bull.*

-ORIGIN early 17th cent.: of unknown origin.

**bul·la** ['bʊlə] *n.* (pl. *bullae* [-ɪ]) 1 Medicine a bubble-like cavity filled with air or fluid, in particular:

■ a large blister containing serous fluid. ■ an abnormal air-filled cavity in the lung. [ORIGIN: early 19th cent.]

2 Anatomy a rounded prominence. [ORIGIN: mid 19th cent.]

3 a round seal attached to a papal bull, typically made of lead. [ORIGIN: Middle English]

-ORIGIN Latin, literally 'bubble.'

**bul·lace** ['bʊləsɪ] *n.* a thorny shrub or small tree of the rose family that bears purple-black fruits. It is a wild plum, of which the damson is the cultivated form.

\**Prunus institia* (or *Prunus domestica* subsp. *institia*), family Rosaceae.

-ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *bulloce*

'sloe': of unknown origin.

**bul·late** ['bʊlət] *adj.* Botany covered with rounded swellings like blisters.

-ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: from Latin *bullatus*, from *bulla* 'bubble.'

**bul·bait·ing** ['bʊl,bæɪɪŋ] *n.* historical the practice of setting dogs to harass and attack a tethered bull, popular as a sport in medieval Europe.

**bul·bat** ['bʊl,bæt] *n.* another term for **NIGHTHAWK** (sense 1).

**bul·dog** ['bʊl,dɒg] *n.* a dog of a sturdy smooth-haired breed with a large head and powerful protruding lower jaw, a flat wrinkled face, and a broad chest.

■ a person noted for courageous or stubborn tenacity: [as adj.] *the bulldog spirit.* ■ informal (at Oxford and Cambridge Universities) an official who assists the proctors, esp. in disciplinary matters.

*v.* (-**dogged**, **-dogging**) [trans.] wrestle (a steer) to the ground by holding its horns and twisting its neck: [as *n.*] (**bulldogging**) *cowboys compete in bulldogging and bareback riding.*

-DERIVATIVES **bulldogger** *n.*



bulldog

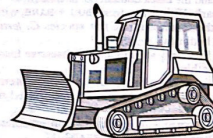
**bul·doze** ['bʊl,dəʊz] *v.* [trans.] clear (ground) or destroy (buildings, trees, etc.) with a bulldozer: *developers are bulldozing the site.*

■ figurative, informal use insensitive force when dealing with (someone or something): *she believes that to build status you need to bulldoze everyone else.*

-ORIGIN late 19th cent. (in the sense 'intimidate'): from **BULL**¹ + *-doze*, alteration of the noun **DOSE**.

**bul·dozer** ['bʊl,dəʊzər] *n.* a powerful tractor with a broad curved upright blade at the front for clearing ground.

■ figurative a person, army, or other body exercising irresistible power, esp. in disposing of obstacles or opposition: *he was a political bulldozer* | *as president of the board, she was an insufferable bulldozer.*



bulldozer

**bul·dyke** ['bʊl,dɪk] (also **bulldike** or **bulldyker**) *n.* informal, offensive a particularly masculine lesbian.

**bul·let** ['bʊlət] *n.* 1 a projectile for firing from a rifle, revolver, or other small firearms, typically of metal, cylindrical and pointed, and sometimes containing an explosive.

■ used in similes and comparisons to refer to someone or something that moves very fast: *the ball sped across the grass like a bullet.* ■ (in a sporting context) a very fast ball.

2 Printing a small solid circle printed just before a line of type, such as an item in a list, to emphasize it.

-ORIGIN early 16th cent. (denoting a cannonball): from French *boulet*, *boulette* 'small ball', diminutive of *bole*, from Latin *bulla* 'bubble.'

**bul·let·head** ['bʊlət,hed] *n.* derogatory a person's head that is small and round.

■ a person with this type of head. ■ a stupid, self-important, or obstinate person.

-DERIVATIVES **bul·let·head·ed** ['bʊlət,hedəd] *adj.*

**bul·let·in** ['bʊlətɪn; -tɪn] *n.* a short official statement or broadcast summary of news.

■ a regular newsletter or printed report issued by an organization or society.

-ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (denoting an official warrant in some European countries): from French, from Ital-