

'B' Words

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b 'be' & 'bee'

the 2nd letter of the alphabet.

baa 'bar' & 'barre'

the cry of sheep.

baaed 'bard' & 'barred'

the sound made by sheep.

baas 'bars'

many cries of sheep.

babbling

1. one who talks incessantly.
2. a bird like a thrush.

babblers

1. those who talk incessantly.
2. birds like thrushes.

babe

1. an infant; a baby; a young child.
2. a self-reflection in pupil of another's eye.

babes

1. infants; babies; young children.
2. self-reflections in the pupils of others' eyes.

bach 'batch'

(colloquial) a bachelor.

bachelor

1. an unmarried man.
2. a young knight following the banner of another.

bachelors

1. unmarried men.
2. young knights following the banner of another.

back

1. the hinder part of the body.
2. assist with money or argument.
3. move away from the front.
4. shallow vat used in brewing.

backed

1. assisted with money or argument.
2. moved away from the front.

backing

1. assisting with money or argument.
2. moving away from the front.

backs

1. assists with money or argument.
2. moves away from the front.
3. shallow vats used in brewing.
4. the hinder parts of bodies.

bad 'bade'

evil; not good.

bade 'bad'

beseech; ask; request.

badger

1. tease; worry; annoy.
2. gray-coated nocturnal animal.
3. hawkker of provisions.

badgers

1. gray-coated nocturnal animals.
2. hawkkers of provisions.
3. teases; worries; annoys.

baffle

1. perplex; confuse.
2. hinder/bar passage of/to.
3. a plate/grill used to deflect loose material/sound/light/gas etc

baffled

1. perplexed.
2. barred; hindered.

baffles

1. perplexes; confuses.
2. bars; hinders.
3. plates/grills used to deflect loose material/sound/light/gas etc.

baffling

1. perplexing; confusing.
2. hindering/blocking/barring passage.

baft

1. a coarse Oriental fabric.
2. (nautical) behind; astern.

bag

1. receptacle of flexible material with opening.
2. (nautical) drop away from course.
3. hang loosely.
4. steal.
5. (school slang) claim to be first.
6. cut wheat with hook.

bagatelle

1. a trifle/thing of little consequence.
2. a light piece of music.
3. a game using balls and a cue.

bagatelles

1. trifles; things of little consequence.
2. light pieces of music.

bagged

1. (nautical) dropped away from a course.
2. (school slang) claimed to be first.
3. cut wheat with a hook.
4. hung loosely.
5. put into receptacles of flexible material.
6. stole.

bagging

1. (nautical) dropping away from a course.
2. (school slang) claiming to be first.
3. cutting wheat with a hook.
4. hanging loosely.
5. putting into receptacles of flexible material.
6. stealing.

bags

1. (nautical) drops away from a course.
2. (school slang) claims to be first.
3. cuts wheat with a hook.
4. hangs loosely.
5. receptacles of flexible material with opening.
6. steals.

baguette

1. (architecture) a small rounded molding.
2. a gem cut into a long rectangular shape.

baguettes

1. (architecture) small rounded moldings.
2. gems cut into long rectangular shapes.

bail 'bale'

1. security for prisoner's appearance.
2. outer line of castle's fortification.
3. bar separating horses in open stable.
4. one of cross-pieces on stumps.
5. half-hoop handle of kettle.
6. (archaic) confine.
7. throw out water; jump out from a plane.

bailed 'baled'

1. (archaic) confined.
2. secured a prisoner's appearance.
3. thrown out liquid, usually from a boat; jumped from a plane with a parachute.

bailer 'bailor' & 'baler'

the ball that hits the bails at cricket.

bailey 'baille'

outer wall of castle.

bailie 'bailey'

Scottish municipal magistrate.

bailing 'baling'

1. (archaic) confining.
2. securing a prisoner's appearance.
3. throwing out liquid, usually from a boat; jumping from plane with a parachute.

bailor 'bailer' & 'baler'

one who delivers goods to another.

bails 'bales'

1. securities for a prisoner's appearance.
2. the outer lines of a castle's fortification.
3. bars separating horses in an open stable.
4. the cross-pieces on the stumps in cricket..
5. half-hoop handles of a kettle.
6. (archaic) confines.
7. throws out water from a vessel/boat; jumps out from a plane with a parachute.

bait 'bate'

1. cause to bite.

2. an allurement; a temptation.
3. halt for rest/refreshment.

baited 'bated'

1. caused to bite.
2. halted for rest/refreshment.

baiting 'bating'

1. causing to bite.
2. halting for rest/refreshment.

baits 'bates'

1. causes to bite.
2. allurements; temptations.
3. halts for rest/refreshments.

baize 'bays' & 'beys'

a coarse woolen stuff used for coverings.

balance

1. weighing apparatus.
2. difference between debits and credits.

balanced

1. obtained differences between debits and credits.
2. used weighing apparatus.

balances

1. differences between debits and credits.
2. weighing apparatuses.

balancing

1. obtaining differences between debits and credits.
2. using weighing apparatus.

bald 'bawled' & 'balled'

smooth; lacking hair or fur.

balderdash

1. (obsolete) a mixed liquid.
2. idle/senseless talk.

bale 'bail'

1. evil; destruction; woe; pain.
2. make up into package with cord or metal hoop.
3. (archaic) a funeral pyre.

baled 'balled'

made up into package.

baler 'bailer' & 'bailor'

a machine for scooping up water.

bales 'bails'

1. evils; destructions; woes; pains.
2. makes up grass/hay/things into a package with a cord or metal hoop.

baling 'bailing'

making up into bundles.

balk

1. ridge left un-ploughed.
2. stumbling block.
3. sanctuary area on billiard table.
4. tie-beam of a house.
5. headline of fishing net.

ball 'bawl'

'M' Words

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macaroni

1. wheaten formed into long strings/tubes.
2. an 18th-century fop affecting continental tastes.

macaw

1. a kind of parrot.
2. a kind of palm tree.

macaws

1. kind of palm trees.
2. kind of parrots.

mace

1. a spiked club/weapon.
2. a kind of spice.

mackle

 'macle'

a blurred ink impression, in printing.

macle

 'mackle'

a twinned crystal; a dark spot in some minerals.

macro

1. relating to macro-economics.
2. a computer command that starts another set of commands.

mad

1. insane.
2. (colloquial) infatuated; wild with desire.
3. (colloquial) angry.
4. (colloquial) very good; excellent.

madder

1. more angry/frantic/stupid/insane etc.
2. a plant whose root produces a red dye.

made

 'maid'

past tense of 'make'.

madge

1. a leaden hammer.
2. a barn owl; a magpie.

madges

1. leaden hammers.
2. barn owls; magpies.

mag

1. (slang) a half-penny.
2. chatter; tease.

magazine

1. a store for arms/ordnance.
2. a periodical publication.

magazines

1. periodical publications.
2. stores for arms/ordnance.

maggot

 'magot'

a legless grub of insects, especially the fly.

maggots

 'magots'

legless grubs of insects, especially the fly.

magot

 'maggot'

a Barbary ape.

magots

 'maggots'

Barbary apes.

magpie

1. a bird with black and white plumage.
2. a rifle shot that hits the outer part of a target.
3. (colloquial) a South Australian.

magpies

1. birds with black and white plumage.
2. rifle shots that hit the outer part of the target.
3. (colloquial) South Australians.

mags

1. (slang) half-pennies.
2. chatters; teases.

mai

1. (Aboriginal English) food.
2. a coniferous tree of New Zealand.

maid

 'made'

a girl/young unmarried woman/female servant.

maiden

1. a girl/spinster.
2. untried; initial.

mail

 'male'

1. chain-link armor.
2. a letter/bag of letters.

mailed

1. cloaked with chain mail defensive armor.
2. sent/posted a letter/parcel and such like.

mails

 'males'

sends letter.

main

 'mane'

1. a cockfighting match/game of hazard.
2. strength; might.
3. (poetry) the high sea.
4. principal; largest; most.
5. a banker's shovel.
6. (Shakespeare) lame; maim.

mains

 'manes'

1. cockfighting matches/games of hazard.
2. (poetry) the high seas.
3. banker's shovels.
4. (Shakespeare) lames/maims.
5. (Scottish) a home farm.

maize

 'maze' & 'mase'

Indian corn.

major

1. (military) an officer rank.
2. greater; larger; most.
3. a person of full age.

maker

1. anyone who makes something.
2. (archaic) a poet.

male 'mail'
the masculine gender.

males 'mails'
many of masculine gender.

malignant

1. very virulent/infectious.
2. a supporter of Charles I against the parliament.

mall 'maul'
a sheltered walkway.

mallet

1. a hammer-like tool.
2. a type of Eucalyptus tree, mostly in Western Australia.

manakin 'mannequin' & 'manikin'
a small tropical American bird.

manakins 'mannequins' & 'manikins'
small tropical American birds.

mandarin

1. a Chinese official.
2. a party leader who lags behind the times.
3. a nodding toy figure in Chinese attire.
4. a small flattish orange fruit.
5. a liqueur.

mandarins

1. liqueurs.
2. Chinese officials.
3. nodding toy figures in Chinese attire.
4. party leaders who lag behind the times.
5. small flattish orange fruits.

mandril 'mandrill'

1. (in a lathe) the axis of work.
2. a miner's pick.

mandrill 'mandril'
a large/ferocious baboon.

mandrills 'mandrills'
large ferocious baboons.

mandrils 'mandrills'
1. (in lathes) the axes of work.
2. miners' picks.

mane 'main'
long hair.

manes 'mains'
many long hairs.

manifest

1. a list of cargo.
2. clear; patent; obvious.

manifold

1. having various forms.
2. (mechanics) a pipe/chamber with many openings.

manikin 'manakin' & 'mannequin'
an anatomical model/little man/dwarf.

manikins 'mannequins' & 'manakin'
anatomical models; little men; dwarfs.

manila 'manilla'

relating to paper/files/folders etc made from manila.

manilla 'manila'
a bracelet once used as currency in Africa.

maniple

1. a subdivision of a Roman legion.
2. a Eucharistic vestment.

maniples

1. Eucharistic vestments.
2. subdivisions of ancient Roman legions.

manna

1. divine or spiritual food.
2. an exudate of insects living in Eucalyptus trees.

mannequin 'manakin' & 'manikin'
a person employed to wear/show off costumes.

mannequins 'manikins' & 'manakins'
persons employed to wear/show off costumes.

manner 'manor'
an attitude/appearance; a way of behaving.

manners 'manors'
attitudes; appearances; ways of behaving.

manor 'manner'
a territorial unit/land/mansion.

manors 'manners'
territorial units/lands/mansions.

mantel 'mantle'
the shelf above a fireplace etc.

mantels 'mantles'
shelves above fireplaces etc.

mantle 'mantel'
a covering; an outer fold.

mantles 'mantels'
coverings; outer folds.

manual

1. of/done with the hands.
2. a book of instructions/procedures.

manzanilla

1. a dry Spanish sherry.
2. a kind of small green olive.

maqui 'maquis'
a Chinese evergreen shrub.

maquis 'maqui'
the French guerrilla bands of 1940-1945.

'W' Words

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- wad** 'wadd'
a pad/bundle/small mass.
- wadd (wad)** 'wad'
an earthy ore of manganese.
- waddies** 'wadies'
Aboriginal heavy war clubs.
- waddy** 'wadi'
an Aboriginal heavy war club.
- wade** 'weighed'
walk through water.
- wadi (wady)** 'waddy'
(Africa, Arabia) a channel or watercourse.
- wadies** 'waddies'
(Africa, Arabia) channels or watercourses.
- wae** 'way', 'wey', 'whey' & 'weigh'
sorrowful.
- waff**
1. (Scottish) wandering; stray; listless.
2. (Scottish) a signal/quick blow/hasty motion.
3. the sound of barking.
- waffle**
1. a small baked batter cake.
2. twaddle; rapid chatter; equivocal speech or writing.
- waft**
1. convey through the air/over water.
2. a single sweep of a bird's wing.
3. a whiff of an odor.
4. a short sensation of peace/joy.
5. (nautical) a distress signal.
- wafts**
1. (nautical) distress signals.
2. conveys through the air/over water.
3. short sensations of peace/joy.
4. many sweeps of a bird's wings.
5. whiffs of odor.
- wag**
1. shake/oscillate, as in 'wag a finger'.
2. a facetious person.
3. (slang) play truant from school.
- wage**
1. a periodic payment for work done.
2. carry on; pledge.
- wages**
1. carries on; pledges.
2. periodic payments for work done.
- wags**
1. (slang) plays truant from school.
2. facetious persons.
3. shakes; oscillates
- waif**
1. something or a person abandoned/neglected.
2. a streak/puff/waff.
- wail** 'wale' & 'whale'
a lament/high-pitched cry.
- wailed** 'waled' & 'whaled'
cried out loudly.
- wailing** 'waling' & 'whaling'
crying out loudly.
- wails** 'wales' & 'whales'
cries out loudly.
- wain** 'wane'
a wagon.
- wains** 'wanes'
wagons.
- waist** 'waste'
the part of the body between hips and ribs.
- waisted** 'wasted'
shaped like, or so as to form a waist.
- waists** 'wastes'
many examples of that part of the body between the hips and ribs.
- wait** 'weight'
1. abstain from action/decision.
2. an official band of musicians/street singers.
- waited** 'weighted'
abstained from action/decision.
- waiting** 'weighting'
abstaining from action.
- waits** 'weights'
1. abstains from action/decision.
2. official bands of musicians/street singers.
- waive** 'wave'
relinquish/forgo a right/claim/plea.
- waived** 'waved'
relinquished/forwent a right/claim/plea.
- waiver** 'waver'
release; absolve.
- waivers** 'wavers'
releases; absolves.
- waives** 'waves'
relinquishes/forgoes rights/claims/pleas.
- waiving** 'waving'
relinquishing/forgoing a right/claim/plea.
- wake**
1. arise from bed; cease to sleep.

2. the watch by a corpse before a burial.
3. the smooth water left behind a ship.

wakes

1. arises from bed; ceases to sleep.
2. smooth waters left behind ships.
3. watches by corpses before burial.

wale 'wail' & 'whale'

1. a ridge on flesh raised by a rod/whip.
2. (military) weave a hurdle/gabion.
3. the act of choosing; a choice.

waled 'wailed' & 'whaled'

1. a ridge on flesh raised by a rod; whipped.
2. (military) wove/constructed a hurdle/gabion.
3. chose; picked.

wales 'wails' & 'whales'

1. whips; causes welts on flesh.
2. (military) weaves/constructs a hurdle/gabion.
3. chooses; picks.

waling 'wailing' & 'whaling'

1. a ridge on flesh raised by whipping.
2. (military) weaving/constructing a hurdle/gabion.
3. choosing; picking.

wall 'waul'

one side of an enclosure; a rampart; an embankment.

wallflower

1. a European perennial, *Cheiranthus cheiri*.
2. (colloquial) generally, a woman who fails to find a partner.

wallflowers

1. European perennials, *Cheiranthus cheiri*.
2. (colloquial) generally, women who fail to find partners.

wallop

1. thrash; a heavy blow/strike.
2. (slang) beer.

wallow

1. roll about in mud/filth.
2. fade away.

wallowed

1. rolled about in mud/filth.
2. faded away.

wallowing

1. rolling about in mud/filth.
2. fading away.

wallows

1. rolls about in mud/filth.
2. fades away.

walls 'wauls'

sides of enclosures; ramparts; embankments.

wane 'wain'

decrease in size/splendor.

wanes 'wains'

fades; disappears.

want

1. a desire/need; expressing a desire or need
2. a lack; an absence.

wanting

1. without; minus; less.
2. needing; desiring.

wanton

1. an unchaste woman.
2. a playful/gamboling child.

wants

1. desires; needs.
2. lacks; absences.

war 'wore'

a quarrel between nations (usually).

warble

1. sing in a gentle trilling manner.
2. a hard lump on a horse's back from saddle wear.

warbles

1. hard lumps on a horse's back, from saddle wear.
2. sings in gentle trilling manner.

ward 'warred'

1. keep in custody; guard; look after.
2. a division in an army/hospital/prison/land area.

warden

1. a watchman/sentinel/guardian/governor.
2. a kind of cooking pear.

warder

1. a prison officer; one who guards others.
2. a truncheon/staff of authority.

warders

1. prison officers; those who guard others.
2. truncheons/staffs of authority.

wards

1. guards; defends.
2. administrative divisions of a city.
3. notches on a key/lock.

ware 'wear' & 'where'

1. manufactured things for sale.
2. (poetry) aware.
3. (Scottish) springtime.
4. (Scottish) seaweed.

wares 'wears'

manufactured things for sale.

warn 'worn'

give notice to; caution; advise.

warp

1. stretched thread on a loom.
2. a rope used in towing.
3. a crooked/bent state in timber.
4. a sediment; an alluvial deposit.

warps

1. crooked/bent states in timbers.