

**BEND**, *v. i.* To be crooked; to crook, or be curving. *Sandys.*

2. To incline; to lean or turn; as, a road *bends* to the west.

3. To jut over; as a *bending* cliff.

4. To resolve, or determine. [See *Bent* on.] *Dryden.*

5. To bow or be submissive. *Is. lx.*

**BEND**, *n.* A curve; a crook; a turn in a road or river; flexure; incurvation.

2. In *marine* language, that part of a rope which is fastened to another or to an anchor. [See *To bend*. No. 8.]

3. *Bends* of a ship, are the thickest and strongest planks in her sides, more generally called *beams*. They are reckoned from the water, *first, second or third bend*. They have the beams, knees, and foot hooks bolted to them, and are the chief strength of the ship's sides. *Encyc. Mar. Dict.*

4. In *heraldry*, one of the nine honorable ordinaries, containing a third part of the field, when charged, and a fifth, when plain. It is made by two lines drawn across from the dexter chief, to the sinister base point. It sometimes is indented, ingrailed, &c. *Johnson. Encyc.*

**BEND**, *n.* A band. [Not in use.] *Spenser.*

**BENDABLE**, *a.* That may be bent or incurvated. *Sherwood.*

**BENDED**, } *Strained; incurvated;*  
**BENT**, } *made crooked; inclined;*  
subdued.

**BENDER**, *n.* The person who bends, or makes crooked; also, an instrument for bending other things.

**BENDING**, *ppr.* Incurvating; forming into a curve; stooping; subduing; turning as a road or river; inclining; leaning; applying closely, as the mind; fastening.

**BENDLET**, *n.* In *heraldry*, a little bend, which occupies a sixth part of a shield. *Bailey.*

**BEND-WITH**, *n.* A plant. *Dict.*

**BEND'Y**, *n.* In *heraldry*, the field divided into four, six or more parts, diagonally, and varying in metal and color. *Encyc.*

**BENE**, *n. ben'y.* The popular name of the sesamum orientale, called in the West Indies cangah, an African plant. *Morse.*

**BENE/APED**, *a.* [be and nap.] Among seamen, a ship is *beneaped*, when the water does not flow high enough to float her from a dock or over a bar. *Encyc.*

**BENE/ATH**, *ppr.* [Sax. *beneath*, *beneathan*, *beythan*; of be and *neathan*, below, under. See *Under*.]

1. *Nether*; lower in place, with something directly over or on, as to place a cushion *beneath* one; often with the sense of *pressure or oppression*, as to sink *beneath* a burden, in a literal sense.

2. *Under*, in a figurative sense; bearing heavy impositions, as taxes, or oppressive government.

Our country sinks *beneath* the yoke. *Shak.*

3. Lower in rank, dignity or excellence; as, brutes are *beneath* man; man is *beneath* angels, in the scale of beings.

4. Unworthy of; unbecoming; not equal to; as, he will do nothing *beneath* his station or character.

**BENE/ATH**, *adv.* In a lower place; as, the earth from *beneath* will be barren. *Martiner.*

2. *Below*, as opposed to heaven, or to any superior region; as, in heaven above, or in earth *beneath*.

**BEN/EDICT**, *a.* [L. *benedictus*.] Having mild and salubrious qualities. [Not in use.] *Bacon.*

**BENEDICTINE**, *a.* Pertaining to the order or monks of St. Benedict, or St. Benet.

**BENEDICTINES**, *n.* An order of monks, who profess to follow the rules of St. Benedict; an order of great celebrity. They wear a loose black gown, with large wide sleeves, and a cowl on the head, ending in a point. In the canon law, they are called *black friars*.

**BENEDICTION**, *n.* [L. *benedictio*, from *bene*, well, and *dictio*, speaking. See *Bon* and *Dictation*.]

1. The act of blessing; a giving praise to God or rendering thanks for his favors; a blessing pronounced; hence grace before and after meals.

2. Blessing, prayer, or kind wishes, uttered in favor of any person or thing; a solemn or affectionate invocation of happiness; thanks; expression of gratitude.

3. The advantage conferred by blessing. *Bacon.*

1. The form of instituting an abbot, answering to the consecration of a bishop. *Ayliffe.*

5. The external ceremony performed by a priest in the office of matrimony is called the *nuptial benediction*. *Encyc.*

6. In the *Romish Church*, an ecclesiastical ceremony by which a thing is rendered sacred or venerable. *Encyc.*

**BENEFACCTION**, *n.* [L. *benefacio*, of *bene*, well, and *facio*, to make or do.]

1. The act of conferring a benefit. *More generally,*

2. A benefit conferred, especially a charitable donation. *Atterbury.*

**BENEFACCTOR**, *n.* He who confers a benefit, especially one who makes charitable contributions either for public institutions or for private use.

**BENEFAC'TRESS**, *n.* A female who confers a benefit. *Delany.*

**BENEFICE**, *n.* [L. *beneficium*; Fr. *benefice*. See *Benefaction*.]

1. *Literally*, a benefit, advantage or kindness. But in *present* usage, an ecclesiastical living; a church endowed with a revenue, for the maintenance of divine service, or the revenue itself. All church preferments are called *benefices*, except bishoprics, which are called *dignities*. But ordinarily, the term *dignity* is applied to bishoprics, deaneries, arch-deaconries, and prebendaries; and *benefice*, to parsonages, vicarages, and donatives. *Encyc.*

2. In the middle ages, *benefice* was used for a fee, or an estate in lands, granted at first for life only, and held *ex nullo beneficio* of the donor. The estate afterwards becoming hereditary, took the appellation of *feud*, and *benefice* became appropriated to church livings. *Encyc.*

**BENEFICED**, *a.* Possessed of a *benefice* or church preferment. *Ayliffe.*

**BENEFICLESS**, *a.* Having no *benefice*. [Not used.] *Sheldon.*

**BENEFICENCE**, *n.* [L. *beneficentia*, from the participle of *benefacio*.]

The practice of doing good; active goodness, kindness, or charity.

**BENEF/ICENT**, *a.* Doing good; performing acts of kindness and charity. It differs from *benign*, as the act from the disposition; *beneficence* being *benignity* or kindness exerted in action. *Johnson.*

**BENEF/ICENTLY**, *adv.* In a *beneficent* manner.

**BENEF/ICIAL**, *a.* Advantageous; conferring benefits; useful; profitable; helpful; contributing to a valuable end; followed by to; as, industry is *beneficial* to the body, as well as to the property.

2. Receiving or entitled to have or receive advantage, use or benefit; as the *beneficial* owner of an estate. *Kent.*

**BENEF/ICALLY**, *adv.* Advantageously; profitably; helpfully.

**BENEF/ICIALNESS**, *n.* Usefulness; profitableness. *Hale.*

**BENEF/ICIARY**, *a.* [L. *beneficiarius*. See *Benefaction*.]

Holding some office or valuable possession, in subordination to another; having a dependent and secondary possession. *Bacon.*

**BENEF/ICIARY**, *n.* One who holds a *benefice*. A *beneficiary* is not the proprietor of the revenues of his church; but he has the administration of them, without being accountable to any person. The word was used, in the middle ages, for a feudatory, or vassal. *Encyc.*

2. One who receives any thing as a gift, or is maintained by charity. *Blackstone.*

**BENEF/ICIENCY**, *n.* Kindness or favor bestowed. *Brown.*

**BENEF/ICIENT**, *a.* Doing good. *Adam Smith.*

**BENEFIT**, *n.* [Primarily from L. *beneficium*, or *benefaction*; but perhaps directly from the Fr. *bienfait*, by corruption.]

1. An act of kindness; a favor conferred. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his *benefits*. *Ps. ciii.*

2. Advantage; profit; a word of extensive use, and expressing whatever contributes to promote prosperity and personal happiness, or add value to property.

Men have no right to what is not for their *benefit*. *Burke.*

3. In law, *benefit of clergy*. [See *Clergy*.]

**BENEFIT**, *v. t.* To do good to; to advantage; to advance in health, or prosperity; applied either to persons or things; as, exercise *benefits* health; trade *benefits* a nation.

**BENEFIT**, *v. i.* To gain advantage; to make improvement; as, he has *benefited* by good advice; that is, he has been *benefited*.

**BENEFITTED**, *pp.* Profited; having received benefit.

**BENEFITTING**, *ppr.* Doing good to; profiting; gaining advantage.

**BENEF/ICE**, *v. t.* [Sax. *be* and *nanan*.] To name. [Not in use.] *Spenser.*

2. To promise; to give. [Not in use.] *Spenser.*

**BENEMP/NE**, *v. t.* To name. [Not in use.] *Spenser.*

**BENEPLACITURE**, *n.* [L. *beneplacitum*, *bene*, well, and *placitum*, from *placere*, to please.]

Will; choice. [Not in use.] *Glennville.*