

**BATTERING-RAM**, *n.* In *antiquity*, a military engine used to beat down the walls of besieged places. It was a large beam, with a head of iron somewhat resembling the head of a ram, whence its name. It was suspended by ropes in the middle to a beam which was supported by posts, and balanced so as to swing backwards and forwards, and was impelled by men against the wall. It was sometimes mounted on wheels.

**BATTERY**, *n.* [Fr. *batterie*; Sp. *bateria*; It. *batteria*. See *Beat*.]

1. The act of battering, or beating.
2. The instrument of battering.
3. In the *military art*, a parapet thrown up to cover the gunners and others employed about them, from the enemy's shot, with the guns employed. Thus, to *erect a battery*, is to form the parapet and mount the guns. The term is applied also to a number of guns ranged in order for battering, and to mortars used for a like purpose.

*Cross batteries* are two batteries which play athwart each other, forming an angle upon the object battered.

*Battery d'enfilade*, is one which scours or sweeps the whole line or length.

*Battery en echarpe*, is that which plays obliquely.

*Battery de revers*, is that which plays upon the enemy's back.

*Cambrade battery*, is when several guns play at the same time upon one place.

*Encyc.*

4. In *law*, the unlawful beating of another. The least violence or the touching of another in anger is a battery. *Blackstone.*
5. In *electrical apparatus and experiments*, a number of coated jars placed in such a manner, that they may be charged at the same time, and discharged in the same manner. This is called an *electrical battery*.
6. *Galvanic battery*, a pile or series of plates of copper and zinc, or of any substances susceptible of galvanic action.

**BAT'TING**, *n.* The management of a bat play. *Mason.*

**BAT'TISII**, *a.* [from *bat*, an animal.] Resembling a bat; as a *batlish* humor.

*Vernon.*

**BAT'TLE**, *n.* [Fr. *bataille*; W. *batal*, a drawing of the bow, a battle; Sp. *batalia*; It. *battaglia*, from *battere*. See *Beat*.] Owen supposes the Welsh *batal*, to be from *ht*, tight, stretched, compact, and the word primarily to have expressed the drawing of the bow. This is probably an error. The first battles of men were with clubs, or some weapons used in *beating*, striking. Hence the club of Hercules. And although the moderns use different weapons, still a battle is some mode of beating or striking.]

1. A fight, or encounter between enemies, or opposing armies; an engagement. It is usually applied to armies or large bodies of men; but in popular language, the word is applied to an encounter between small bodies, between individuals, or inferior animals. It is also more generally applied to the encounters of land forces than of ships; the encounters of the latter being called *engagements*. But *battle* is applicable to any combat of enemies.

2. A body of forces, or division of an army. *Bacon.*

The main body, as distinct from the van and rear. *Obs.*

To *give battle*, is to attack an enemy; to *join battle*, is properly to meet the attack; but perhaps this distinction is not always observed.

A *pitched battle* is one in which the armies are previously drawn up in form, with a regular disposition of the forces.

To *turn the battle to the gale*, is to fight valiantly, and drive the enemy, who hath entered the city, back to the gate. *Is.*

**BATTLE**, *v. i.* [Fr. *batailler*; Sp. *bataallar*.]

To join in battle; to contend in fight; sometimes with it; as, to *battle it*. *Addison.*

**BATTLE**, *v. t.* To cover with armed force. *Fairfax.*

**BATTLE-ARRAY**, *n.* [battle and array.] Array or order of battle; the disposition of forces preparatory to a battle.

**BATTLE-AXE**, *n.* An ax anciently used as a weapon of war.

It has been used till of late years by the highlanders in Scotland; and is still used by the city guards in Edinburgh, in quelling mobs, &c. *Encyc.*

**BATTLE-DOOR**, *n.* *bat'til-dore*. An instrument of play, with a handle and a flat board or palm, used to strike a ball or shuttle-cock; a racket. *Locke.*

2. A child's horn book. [Not in use in U. S.]

**BATTLEMENT**, *n.* [This is said to have been *bastillement*, from *bastille*, a fortification, from Fr. *batir*, *bastir*, to build. *Qu.*] A wall raised on a building with openings or embrasures, or the embrasure itself. *Encyc.*

**BATTLEMENTED**, *a.* Secured by battlements. *Johnson.*

**BAT'TLING**, *n.* Conflict. *Thomson.*

**BATTOLOGIST**, *n.* [See *Battology*.]

One that repeats the same thing in speaking or writing. [Little used.] *Whitlock.*

**BATTOLOGIZE**, *v. t.* To repeat needlessly the same thing. [Little used.] *Herbert.*

**BATTOLOGY**, *n.* [Gr. *battologia*, from *battos*, a garrulous person, and *logos*, discourse.]

A needless repetition of words in speaking. *Ash.*

**BAT'TON**, *n.* [from *bat*.] In commerce, pieces of wood or deal for flooring, or other purposes. *Encyc.*

**BATTORY**, *n.* Among the *Hans-Towns*, a factory or magazine which the merchants have in foreign countries. *Encyc.*

**BATTULATE**, *v. t.* To interdict commerce. [A word used by the Levant company.] *Eton.*

**BATTULATION**, *n.* A prohibition of commerce. *Eton.*

**BAT'TY**, *a.* [from *bat*, an animal.] Belonging to a bat. *Shak.*

**BATZ**, *n.* A small copper coin with a mixture of silver, current in some parts of Germany and Switzerland. *Encyc.*

**BAUBEE**, *n.* [Qu. Fr. *bas-billon*.] In Scotland and the North of England, a half penny. *Johnson.*

**BAUGÉ**, *n.* A drugget manufactured in Burgundy, with thread spun thick, and of coarse wool. *Encyc.*

**BAULK**. [See *Balk*.]

**BAV'AROY**, *n.* A kind of cloke or surout. *Johnson.*

**BAVIN**, *n.* A stick like those bound up in faggots; a piece of waste wood. In *war*, brush, faggots. *Johnson.*

**BAW'BLE**, *n.* [Fr. *babble*, a toy, or baby-thing; according to Spelman, *baubella* are gems or jewels.]

A trifling piece of finery; a gew-gaw; that which is gay or showy without real value. *Dryden.*

**BAWBLING**, *a.* Trifling; contemptible. *Obs.*

**BAW'-COCK**, *n.* A fine fellow. [Qu. *beau-cock*.] *Shak.*

**BAWD**, *n.* [I know not the origin of this word; but in French, *bavdir* is a term in hunting, signifying to excite or encourage dogs to the chase; formed, according to Lamer, from the Low Latin, *baldir*, or *exbaldir*, to enliven, to quicken; which, from the Italian, *baldo*, *balanza*, appears to be from the root of Eng. *bold*, the primary sense of which is, to project, to push or rush forward. In W. *pu* is what tends to allure. But one author quotes Hesychius, as giving Gr. *babas*, a procurer or procurer.]

A procurer or procuress. A person who keeps a house of prostitution, and conducts criminal intrigues. [Usually applied to females.]

**BAWD**, *v. i.* To procure; to provide women for lewd purposes. [Not in use.] *Skelton.*

**BAWD-BORN**, *a.* Descended from a bawd. *Shak.*

**BAWDILY**, *adv.* Obscenely; lewdly.

**BAWDINESS**, *n.* Obscenity; lewdness.

**BAWD'RIK**, *n.* [See *Baldrick*.] A belt. *Chapman.*

**BAWD'RY**, *n.* [See *Bawd*.] The abominable practice of procuring women for the gratification of lust.

2. Obscenity; filthy, unchaste language.

**BAWDY**, *a.* Obscene; filthy; unchaste; applied to language.

**BAWDY-HOUSE**, *a.* A house of lewdness and prostitution.

**BAWL**, *v. i.* [Sax. *bellan*; Sw. *bola*, to low or bellow; W. *ballaw*; G. *bellan*, to bark; D. *balderen*, to roar; L. *balo*, to bleat; Fr. *piaillet*, to hawl, to pull; Heb. *bal*, to yell, to blast of a trumpet; Per. *bala*, a cry or clamor; and Ar. and Heb. *bal*, to weep, to wail. These all coincide in elements with L. *pello*, *appello*, Eng. *peal*, and the primary sense is the same.]

1. To cry out with a loud full sound; to hoot; to cry with vehemence, as in calling, or in pain or exaltation.

2. To cry loud, as a child from pain or vexation.

**BAWL**, *v. t.* To proclaim by outcry, as a common crier. *Swift.*

**BAWL'ED**, *ppr.* Proclaimed by outcry.

**BAWL'ING**, *ppr.* Crying aloud.

**BAWL'ING**, *n.* The act of crying with a loud sound.

**BAWN**, *n.* An inclosure with mud or stone walls for keeping cattle; a fortification. [Not used.] *Spenser.*

**BAW'REL**, *n.* A kind of hawk. *Todd.*

**BAW'SIN**, *n.* A badger. *B. Jonson.*