

# bone<sup>1</sup>

S2 W2

/bəʊn \$ baʊn/

noun

**1** **BODY**[countable] one of the hard parts that together form the frame of a human, animal, or fish body:

*The X-ray showed that the bone was broken in two places.*

**hip/leg/cheek etc bone** (= the bone in your hip etc)

*He broke his collar bone.*

**big-boned/fine-boned/small-boned etc** (= with big etc bones)

*She was tall and big-boned.*

*Amelia had inherited her mother's good **bone structure**.*

**2** [uncountable] a substance made of bones:

*the bone handle of his dagger*

**3 the bare bones** SIMPLE/NOT COMPLICATED

the simplest and most important details of something:

*I can't tell you more than the bare bones of what happened.*

**4 make no bones about (doing) something** HONEST

to not feel nervous or ashamed about doing or saying something:

*Mary made no bones about enjoying a drink.*

**5 bone of contention** DISAGREE

something that causes arguments between people:

*The examination system has long been a serious bone of contention in this country.*

**6 be chilled/frozen to the bone** COLD

to be extremely cold

**7 skin and bone**

very thin:

*She was all skin and bone.*

**8 a bag of bones** THIN PERSON

someone who is much too thin

## 9 **feel/know something in your bones** PREDICT

to be certain that something is true, even though you have no proof and cannot explain why you are certain:

*She knew that something good was sure to happen; she could feel it in her bones.*

## 10 **have a bone to pick with somebody** (spoken) ARGUE

used to tell someone that you are annoyed with them and want to talk about it

## 11 **close to the bone** HONEST

a remark, statement etc that is close to the bone is close to the truth in a way that may offend someone:

*His jokes were a bit close to the bone.*

## 12 **cut something to the bone** REDUCE

to reduce costs, services etc as much as possible:

*Shops cut prices to the bone in the January sales.*

## 13 **on the bone**

meat that is served on the bone is still joined to the bone:

*a boiled ham on the bone*

## 14 **off the bone**

meat that is served off the bone has been cut away from the bone:

*roasted duck, off the bone*

→ **dry as a bone** AT DRY<sup>1</sup> (1),

→ **work your fingers to the bone** AT WORK<sup>1</sup> (29)

## COLLOCATIONSSense 1

### ADJECTIVES/NOUN + bone

broken *The doctor thought that I had a broken bone in my wrist. | Luckily the bone wasn't broken.*

a thigh/hip/ankle etc bone *He was so thin that his hip bones were sticking out.*

human/ animal bones *They dug up a lot of human bones from under the castle.*

**verbs**

break a bone *I hope you haven't broken a bone.*

fracture a bone (= to break a bone so that a line appears on the surface) *Sally fell, fracturing a bone in her leg.*

**bone + NOUN**

bone structure (= the shape of your face, formed by the bones in it) *She had beautiful eyes and fine bone structure.*

bone disease *He suffered from a rare bone disease.*

**Word origin**

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *ban*

**bone<sup>2</sup>**

verb

[transitive]

to remove the bones from fish or meat:

*boned breast and thigh meat*

**bone up on something**

phrasal verb

STUDY to learn as much as you can about a subject, because you need the knowledge, for example for an examination:

*I have to bone up on criminal law for a test next week.*

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