

bill¹

S1 W1

/bɪl/

noun [countable]

- 1 PAYMENT **request for payment** a written list showing how much you have to pay for services you have received, work that has been done etc:

bill for

The bill for the repairs came to \$650.

Have you paid the phone bill?

- 2 **restaurant (especially BrE)** a list showing how much you have to pay for food you have eaten in a restaurant

SYN **check (AmE):**

Could we have the bill, please?

- 3 LAW **law** a written proposal for a new law, that is brought to a parliament so that it can be discussed:

approve/pass/veto a bill

The House of Representatives passed a new gun-control bill.

*The senator **introduced** a **bill** that would increase the minimum wage.*

- 4 MONEY **money (AmE)** a piece of paper money

SYN **note (BrE)**

→ **coin:**

a five-dollar bill

- 5 **fit/fill the bill** SUITABLE

to be exactly what you need:

This car fits the bill perfectly. It's cheap and gets good mileage.

6 CONCERT/SHOW ETC **concert/show etc** a programme of entertainment at a theatre, concert, cinema etc, with details of who is performing, what is being shown etc:

Tricia topped the bill (= was the most important performer) *at the Children's Variety Show.*

7 **give somebody/something a clean bill of health** HEALTHY/SAFE

to officially state that someone is in good health or that something is working correctly:

Maddox was given a clean bill of health.

8 BIRD **bird** a bird's beak

9 **advertisement** a printed notice advertising an event

10 **part of a hat** (AmE) the front part that sticks out on a hat such as a BASEBALL CAP

11 **the (old) bill** (BrE)(spoken)
the police

COLLOCATIONSense 1 verbs

pay a bill *Most people pay their bills on time.*

settle a bill (= pay it) *She went down to the lobby to settle the bill for their rooms.*

foot the bill/pick up the bill (= pay for something, especially when you do not want to) *Taxpayers will probably have to foot the bill.*

run up a bill (= use a lot of something so that you have a big bill to pay) *It's easy to run up a big bill on your mobile phone.*

face a bill (= have a lot to pay on a bill) *They were facing a mounting legal bill.*

cut/reduce a bill *We need to find a way to cut our fuel bill.*

a bill comes to something (= is for that amount) *The bill came to \$60.*

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + bill

a big/ huge bill *Turn off the lights or we'll get a huge electricity bill.*

an electricity/ gas/ phone etc bill *I'll have to pay the gas bill too next month.*

a hotel bill *He paid the hotel bill by credit card.*

a tax bill *There are various ways you can reduce your tax bill.*

an unpaid bill *She had unpaid bills amounting to £3,000.*

an outstanding bill (= still unpaid) *He still didn't have enough to pay his outstanding bills.*

THESAURUS

bill a piece of paper that tells you how much you must pay:
Many families are struggling to pay their bills. | a credit card bill | We got a huge phone bill. | I asked the waiter to bring me the bill.

check (AmE) a bill that tells you how much you must pay in a restaurant: *Can I have the check, please?*

invoice a document that lists the goods that a company has sent, or the services they have provided, and tells you how much you must pay. It is often sent from one company to another company: *Payment is due ten days after receipt of the invoice.*

tab (informal) a bill that is added up at the end of a period of time, especially for food or drinks that you have had in a restaurant or hotel: *People staying in the hotel can order food or drinks to be put on their tab.*

Word origin

Sense 1-7, 9:

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Medieval Latin

Origin: *billa*, from Latin *bullā* 'bubble, seal added to a document'; → [BOIL](#) ¹

Sense 8,10:

Language: Old English

Origin: *bile*

Sense 11:

Date: 1300–1400

Origin: *Old Bill*

bill²

verb

1 PAY FOR[transitive] to send someone a bill:

Clients will be billed monthly.

bill somebody for something

I was billed for equipment that I didn't order.

2 be billed to do something

if someone is billed to appear, perform etc somewhere, it has been planned and advertised that they will do this:

Johnson was billed to speak at two conferences.

3 bill and coo LOVE (old-fashioned)

to kiss and talk softly

bill something **as** something

phrasal verb

to advertise or describe something in a particular way:

The castle bills itself as the oldest in England.