

bound¹

/baʊnd/

the past tense and past participle of BIND

bound²

S2 W3

adjective [no comparative]

1 **likely be bound to** CERTAINLY/DEFINITELY

to be very likely to do or feel a particular thing:

Don't lie to her. She's bound to find out.

it is bound to be (= used to say that something should have been expected)

'It's hot!' 'Well, it was bound to be – I just took it out of the oven.'

When you are dealing with so many patients, mistakes are bound to happen.

Bound to is used mainly in spoken English. In written English, people usually use **certain to, it is inevitable that** instead:

Mistakes are bound to happen.

→ ***It is inevitable that** mistakes will happen.*

2 **DUTY/PROMISE law/agreement be bound (by something)** PROMISE

to be forced to do what a law or agreement says you must do

→ **binding:**

bound (by something) to do something

The Foundation is bound by the treaty to help any nation that requests aid.

*You are **legally bound** to report the accident.*

3 **duty SHOULD/UGHT TO be/feel bound to do something**

to feel that you ought to do something, because it is morally right or your

duty to do it:

Ian felt bound to tell Joanna the truth.

*Well, I'm **bound to say** (= I feel I ought to say) , I think you're taking a huge risk.*

be duty bound/honour bound to do something

A son is duty bound to look after his mother.

4 **travelling towards** PLACE/DIRECTION **bound for London/Mexico etc**

(also **London-bound/Mexico-bound etc**)GO

travelling towards a particular place or in a particular direction:

a plane bound for Somalia

We tried to get seats on a Rome-bound flight.

homeward-bound (= travelling towards home) *commuters*

northbound/southbound/eastbound/westbound

All eastbound trains have been cancelled due to faulty signals.

5 **relationship be bound (together) by something**

if two people or groups are bound together by something, they share a particular experience or situation that causes them to have a relationship

→ **unite:**

The two nations were bound together by a common history.

6 **be bound up in something**

to be very involved in something, so that you cannot think about anything else:

He was too bound up in his own problems to listen to mine.

7 **be bound up with something**

to be very closely connected with a particular problem or situation:

Mark's problems are all bound up with his mother's death when he was ten.

The people of Transkei began to realize that their future was inseparably bound up with that of South Africa.

8 **snow-bound/strike-bound/tradition-bound etc** CONTROL

controlled or limited by something, so that you cannot do what you want or what other people want you to:

*a **fog-bound** airport*

*people who are **wheelchair-bound***

*a **desk-bound** sergeant* (= having to work in an office, instead of doing a more active job)

9 BOOK a bound book is covered on the outside with paper, leather etc

→ **bind**:

bound in

a Bible bound in leather

*a **leather-bound** volume of Shakespeare's plays*

10 I'll be **bound** SURE (old-fashioned)

used when you are very sure that what you have just said is true:

He had good reasons for doing that, I'll be bound.

11 **bound and determined** (*AmE*)

very determined to do or achieve something, especially something difficult:

Klein is bound and determined to win at least five races this year.

Word origin

Sense 1-3, 5-11:

Date: 1300–1400

Origin: From the past participle of → [BIND](#) ¹

Sense 4:

Date: 1500–1600

Language: Old Norse

Origin: *buinn*, past participle of *bua* 'to live in a place, prepare'; probably influenced by the past participle *bound*

bound³

verb

1 [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] RUN to run with a lot of energy, because you are happy, excited, or frightened:

bound up/towards/across etc

Suddenly a huge dog came bounding towards me.

2 be bounded by something EDGE

if a country or area of land is bounded by something such as a wall, river etc, it has the wall etc at its edge

→ **boundary:**

a yard bounded by a wooden fence

The US is bounded in the north by Canada and in the south by Mexico.

Word origin

Sense 1:

Date: 1500–1600

Language: Old French

Origin: *bondir*, from Vulgar Latin *bombitire* 'to hum', from Latin *bombus*; → [BOMB](#) ¹

Sense 2:

Date: 1500–1600

Origin: → [BOUND](#) ⁴ ¹

bound⁴

noun

1 LIMITS **bounds** [plural]

a) RULE/REGULATION

the limits of what is possible or acceptable:

within the bounds of something

We are here to make sure that the police operate within the bounds of the law.

be/go beyond the bounds of credibility/reason/decency etc

The humor in the movie sometimes goes beyond the bounds of good taste.

be within/beyond the bounds of possibility (= be possible/not possible)

It was not beyond the bounds of possibility that they could meet again.

b) LIMIT (old-fashioned)

the edges of a town, city etc

2 out of bounds FORBID

if a place is out of bounds, you are not allowed to go there

SYN off-limits (*AmE*):

out of bounds to/for

The path by the railway line is officially out of bounds to both cyclists and walkers.

3 by leaps and bounds/in leaps and bounds (*BrE*) FAST/QUICK

if someone or something increases, develops etc by leaps and bounds, they increase etc very quickly:

Julie's reading is improving in leaps and bounds.

4 know no bounds (*formal*) LIMIT

if someone's honesty, kindness etc knows no bounds, they are extremely honest etc

5 in bounds/out of bounds

inside or outside the legal playing area in a sport such as American football
OR BASKETBALL

6 JUMP[countable] JUMP a long or high jump made with a lot of energy**Word origin**

Sense 1-2, 4-5:

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *bodne*, from Medieval Latin *bodina*

Sense 3, 6:

Date: 1500–1600

Language: Old French

Origin: *bond*, from *bondir*; → BOUND ³ 2