

# bear<sup>1</sup>

S2 W2

/beə \$ ber/

verb [transitive]

(*past tense* **bore** /bɔː \$ bɔːr/ , *past participle* **borne** /bɔːn \$ bɔːrn/ )

**1** | **deal with something** BRAVE to bravely accept or deal with a painful, difficult, or upsetting situation

**SYN** stand

*She was afraid she wouldn't be able to bear the pain.*

*Overcrowding makes prison life even harder to bear.*

*Make the water as hot as you **can bear**.*

*The humiliation was **more than he could bear**.*

*Black people continue to **bear the brunt of** most racial violence* (= have to deal with the most difficult or damaging part) .

*Passengers could be insulting, and stewardesses just had to **grin and bear it*** (= accept it without complaining) .

*Experts were worried the financial system would not be able to **bear the strain**.*

In everyday English, people usually say that they **can't stand** something, rather than that they **can't bear** it:

***I couldn't stand the noise any longer.***

**2 can't bear something** (spoken)

**a)** SUFFER

to be so upset about something that you feel unable to accept it or let it happen

**SYN** can't stand

*Please don't leave me. I couldn't bear it.*

**can't bear the thought of (doing) something**

*I just can't bear the thought of having to start all over.*

**can't bear to do something**

*I can't bear to see her cry.*

**can't bear doing something**

*I couldn't bear not seeing him again.*

**b) DON'T LIKE**

to dislike something or someone very much, often so that they make you feel annoyed or impatient

**SYN** can't stand

*Oh, I really can't bear him.*

**can't bear somebody doing something**

*He can't bear people smoking while he's eating.*

**can't bear doing something**

*I can't bear being cold.*

**3 bear (something) in mind** REMEMBER

to remember a fact or piece of information that is important or could be useful in the future

**SYN** keep (something) in mind:

**bear in mind (that)**

*Bear in mind that some children will need help.*

**4 | accept/be responsible for** (formal) PAY FOR to be responsible for or accept something:

**bear the costs/burden**

*Each company will bear half the costs of development.*

*Fares have gone up, perhaps to more than the market will bear.*

**bear the responsibility/blame etc**

*Developed countries bear much of the responsibility for environmental problems.*

**5 support** SUPPORT/HOLD UP to be under something and support it

**SYN** hold

*My leg was painful, and I wasn't sure it would **bear** my weight.*

*a tray bearing a bottle and several glasses*

*a load-bearing wall*

**6** SHOW/BE A SIGN OF **sign/mark** (formal) to have or show a sign, mark, or particular appearance, especially when this shows that something has happened or is true

**SYN** have

*The letter bore no signature.*

*a car bearing diplomatic license plates*

*The labels bear a yellow and black symbol.*

*The town still **bears the scars** of the bombings during the war.*

*The store **bears the hallmarks** (= it has the qualities) of a family-owned business.*

**7 bear a resemblance/relation to somebody/something** LIKE/SIMILAR

to be similar to someone or something else:

*The child **bore a striking resemblance** to his father.*

*The things she says bear little relation to what she actually does.*

**8** BABY/HAVE A BABY **baby** (formal) to give birth to a baby:

*She might never be able to bear children.*

**bear somebody a child/son/daughter**

*She bore him three sons.*

## 9 bear fruit

### a) SUCCEED IN DOING SOMETHING

if a plan, decision etc bears fruit, it is successful, especially after a long period of time:

*Charles's diplomacy eventually bore fruit.*

### b)

if a tree bears fruit, it produces fruit

### 10 INVESTIGATE **able to be examined/compared etc** [often in negatives] to be suitable or good enough to be examined, compared, repeated etc without failing or being wrong:

*The production figures did not **bear scrutiny**.*

*We believe our pupils' results will **bear comparison** with any in Scotland.*

*The story is well known, but it certainly **bears repeating**.*

### 11 **something doesn't bear thinking about** UNPLEASANT

used to say that something is so upsetting or shocking that you prefer not to think about it:

*The long-term consequences of a nuclear leak don't bear thinking about.*

### 12 bear interest

if a bank account, INVESTMENT etc bears interest, the bank pays you a particular amount of money for keeping your money in the account

### 13 CARRY **carry** (literary) to carry someone or something, especially something important:

*The wedding guests arrived, bearing gifts.*

*The US Constitution states that the people have a right to **bear arms**.*

### 14 bring pressure/influence to bear (on somebody/something)

POWER

to use your influence or power to get what you want:

*Unions can bring pressure to bear on governments.*

**15 bear witness/testimony to something** (formal) SHOW/BE A SIGN OF  
to show that something is true or exists:

*The empty workshops bear witness to the industrial past.*

**16** ANGRY **have feelings** (formal) to have a particular feeling, especially a bad feeling:

**bear (somebody) a grudge** (= continue to feel annoyed after a long time)

*It was an accident. I don't bear any grudges.*

**bear somebody no malice/ill will etc** (= not feel angry)

*He was just doing his job, and I bore him no malice.*

**17 bear right/left** WAY/ROUTE

to turn towards the right or left:

*When you reach the fork in the trail, bear left.*

**18 bear yourself** (formal) WALKSTAND/BEAR

to walk, stand etc in a particular way, especially when this shows your character:

*She bore herself with great dignity.*

**19** MOVE SOMETHING OR SOMEBODY **wind/water** (literary) if wind, water, or air bears something, it carries it somewhere:

*The sound of music was borne along on the wind.*

**20** NAME OF A THING **name/title** (formal) to have a particular name or title:

*He bore the name 'Magnus'.*

## COLLOCATIONSense 1

### bear + NOUN

bear the pain *He knew that he couldn't bear the pain much longer.*

bear the heat/cold *Some people find it hard to bear the heat in the summer.*

bear the strain/pressure *Mark couldn't bear the pressure of the job any longer.*

## phrases

can hardly bear something (= find something very difficult or upsetting to do) *He was so ashamed that he could hardly bear to look at her.*

be unable to bear something *Fiona was unable to bear the thought of selling the house.*

be hard to bear *The situation was very hard to bear.*

be more than somebody can bear *He sometimes felt the grief was more than he could bear.*

bear the brunt of something (= be in the worst position and have to deal with it) *Shareholders will bear the brunt of the company's financial troubles.*

grin and bear it (= accept it without complaining) *It was a horrible job but she had to grin and bear it.*

## bear down

phrasal verb

### 1 bear down on somebody/something MOVE/CHANGE POSITION

a)

to move quickly towards a person or place in a threatening way:

*a storm bearing down on the island*

b)

to behave in a threatening or controlling way towards a person or group:

*Federal regulators have been bearing down on campaign contributors.*

2 PRESS to use all your strength and effort to push or press down on something

## bear on/upon something

phrasal verb

CONNECTED WITH to relate to and possibly influence something:

*the national policies which bear on these problems*

## **bear somebody/ something ↔ out**

phrasal verb

PROVE if facts or information bear out a claim, story, opinion etc, they help to prove that it is true

**SYN** support

*Evidence bears out the idea that students learn best in small groups.*

## **bear up**

phrasal verb

BRAVE to show courage or determination during a difficult or unpleasant time:

*How is he bearing up since the accident?*

## **bear with somebody/ something**

phrasal verb

### **1 bear with me** (spoken) WAIT

used to ask someone politely to wait while you find out information, finish what you are doing etc:

*Bear with me a minute, and I'll check if Mr Garrard's in.*

### **2** WAIT to be patient or continue to do something difficult or unpleasant:

*It's boring, but please bear with it.*

**Word origin**

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *beran*

## **bear<sup>2</sup>**

noun

[countable]

**1** a large strong animal with thick fur, that eats flesh, fruit, and insects:  
*a mother bear and her cubs*

→ GRIZZLY BEAR,  
POLAR BEAR,  
TEDDY BEAR

**2** (*AmE*) (informal) something that is very difficult to do or to deal with:  
*The chemistry test was a bear.*

**3** **be like a bear with a sore head** (*BrE*) (informal) BAD-TEMPERED  
to be rude to people because you are feeling bad-tempered

**4** (*technical*) someone who sells SHARES or goods when they expect the price to fall → **bull**

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**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *bera*

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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