

bet¹ S1

/bet/

verb (*past tense and past participle bet, present participle betting*)

1 [intransitive and transitive] to risk money on the result of a race, game, competition, or other future event → **gamble:**

How much do you want to bet?

bet (somebody) that

He bet me £10 that I wouldn't do it.

bet (something) on something

She bet all her money on a horse that came last.

bet against

I wouldn't bet against him winning the championship this year.

2 I bet/I'll bet (*spoken*)

a) SURE

used to say that you are fairly sure that something is true, something is happening etc, although you cannot prove this:

Bet you wish you'd arrived earlier.

I bet you she won't come.

b) UNDERSTAND

used to show that you understand or can imagine the situation that someone has just told you about:

'God, I was so angry.' 'I bet you were.'

'It makes things much easier.' 'Yeah, I'll bet it does.'

c) BELIEVE#

used to show that you do not believe what someone has just told you:

'I'm definitely going to give up smoking this time.' 'Yeah, I bet!'

3 you bet! AGREE (spoken)

used to emphasize that you agree with someone or are keen to do what they suggest:

'Going to the party on Saturday?' 'You bet!'

4 (do you) want to bet?/wanna bet? (spoken)

used to say that you think something that someone has just said is not true or not likely to happen:

'I'm sure Tom'll be here soon.' 'Wanna bet?'

5 don't bet on it/I wouldn't bet on it (spoken)

used to say that you do not think something is likely to happen:

He said he'd finish by tomorrow, but I wouldn't bet on it.

6 you (can) bet your life/your bottom dollar (spoken) SURE

used when you are sure that you know what someone will do or what will happen:

You can bet your bottom dollar he won't be back.

7 bet the farm/ranch (AmE) (informal)

to risk everything that you own:

Do we really want to bet the ranch on this deal?