

# border<sup>1</sup> S3 W2

/ˈbɔːdə \$ ˈbɔːrdər/

**noun** [countable]

**1** the official line that separates two countries, states, or areas, or the area close to this line:

*To cross the border, you will need a valid passport.*

**border between**

*the border between the US and Mexico*

**border with**

*regular patrols along the border with France*

**on the border**

*a market town on the border of England and Wales*

**across the border**

*He helped them to get across the border.*

**south/north etc of the border**

*The coach took us south of the border to Tia Juana.*

**2** EDGE a band along or around the edge of something such as a picture or piece of material:

*writing paper with a black border*

**3** an area of soil where you plant flowers or bushes, along the edge of an area of grass:

*a flower and shrub border*

**4** something that separates one situation, state etc from another:

*new scientific discoveries that are stretching the borders of knowledge*

## COLLOCATIONSense 1

### verbs

cross the border *The army crossed the border and advanced on Warsaw.*

flee/escape across the border *Over 100,000 civilians fled across*

*the border.*

form the border *The river forms the border between the two countries.*

close the border (= prevent people from crossing) *The government moved quickly to close the border.*

open the border (= start allowing people to cross) *After fifty years the border was finally opened.*

straddle the border (= cover land on both sides of it) *This small village straddles the border between the West Bank and Jerusalem.*

## adjectives

the Welsh/Mexican etc border *I had reached the Swiss border.*

the southern/eastern etc border *They renewed their attacks on Ethiopia's northern border.*

the Austro-Hungarian/Hong Kong–China etc border *The village is on the Oxfordshire–Warwickshire border.*

a common border (= that countries share) *India and Pakistan each withdrew troops from their common border.*

## border + NOUN

a border dispute (= a disagreement about where the border should be) *a long-running border dispute between Iraq and Iran*

a border town *the Chinese border town of Shenzhen*

a border area/region *The Afghan border area is open and wild.*

a border crossing (= a place where you cross a border) *There are problems of delays at border crossings.*

a border guard *the North Korean border guards*

border controls (= controls on who crosses a border) *Hungary tightened its border controls.*

## phrases

this/the other side of the border *Her friend lives on the other side of the border.*

## THESAURUS

**border** the official line that separates two countries, or the area

close to this line: *The town lies on the border between Chile and Argentina.* | *Strasbourg is very close to the German border.* | *border guards*

frontier (*especially BrE*) the border: *They crossed the Libyan frontier into Egypt.*

line the official line that separates states and counties in the US: *His family lived across the state line in West Virginia.*

boundary the line that marks the edge of an area of land that someone owns, or one of the parts of a country: *The fence marks the boundary between the two properties.* | *The Mississippi River forms the boundary between Tennessee and Arkansas.* | *A road runs along the western boundary of the site.*

### Word origin

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *bordure*, from *border* 'to border', from *bort* 'border'

# border<sup>2</sup>

verb

**1** [intransitive and transitive] if one country, state, or area borders another, it is next to it and shares a border with it:

*countries that border the Mediterranean*

**border on**

*The area borders on the Yorkshire Dales.*

**2** EDGE [transitive] to form a border along the edge of something:

*a path bordered by a high brick wall*

## border on something

phrasal verb

RICH to be very close to being something extreme:

*His confidence bordered on arrogance.*

