

boy<sup>1</sup>

S1 W1

/bɔɪ/

noun [countable]

**1** CHILDCHILD a male child, or a male person in general → **girl:***The boys wanted to play football.**boys and girls aged 11–18***a teenage/adolescent boy***A group of teenage boys stood talking in a group outside.***bad/naughty boy***‘You naughty boy!’ she said in a harsh voice.**What a polite **little boy** (= young male child) you are.**Come on, Timmy, act like a **big boy** (= an older boy) now.***2** SON a son:*I love my boys, but I’d like to have a girl, too.**How old is your **little boy** (= young son) ?***3 office/paper/delivery etc boy**

a young man who does a particular job

**4 city/local/country boy** (informal)

a man of any age who is typical of people from a particular place, or who feels a strong connection with the place he grew up in:

*The classic story of a local boy who’s made good (= who has succeeded) .**I’m just a country boy.***5 the boys** [plural] (informal) GROUP OF PEOPLE

a group of men who are friends and often go out together:

*Friday is his **night out with the boys**.**He considers himself just **one of the boys** (= not anyone special, but liked by other men) .***6** ANIMALSNAME OF A THING a way of talking to a male horse or dog:

*Good boy!*

**7** JOB **boys** [plural] (informal)

**a)** GROUP OF PEOPLE

a group of men who do the same job:

*Oh no! Wait until the press boys get hold of this story.*

**b)**

men in the army, navy etc, especially those who are fighting in a war:

*our boys on the front lines*

**8** **boys will be boys** BEHAVE

used to say that you should not be surprised when boys or men behave badly, are noisy etc

**9** **the boys in blue** (informal)

the police

**10** **old boy/my dear boy** TALK TO SOMEBODY (*BrE*) (old-fashioned)

a friendly way for one man to speak to another man

**11** INSULT (*AmE*) (not polite) an offensive way of talking to a black man

→ BLUE-EYED BOY,

→ **jobs for the boys** AT JOB <sup>(15)</sup>,

→ MAMA'S BOY,

MUMMY'S BOY,

OLD BOY,

WIDE BOY

### Word origin

**Date:** 1200–1300

**Origin:** Perhaps from Frisian *boi* 'boy'

# boy<sup>2</sup>

interjection

(*AmE*) (informal)

**1** EXCITED used when you are excited or pleased about something:

*Boy, that was a great meal!*

## **2 oh boy!** ANNOY

used when you are slightly annoyed or disappointed about something:

*Oh boy! Bethany's sick again.*

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