

beer

S2 W3

/biə \$ bir/

noun

1 [uncountable] an alcoholic drink made from MALT and HOPS:

a pint of beer

*We sell **draught beer*** (= beer served from a large container, not a bottle).

2 [countable] a glass, bottle, or can of beer:

Do you fancy a beer?

— **beery** adjective:

his beery breath

→ GINGER BEER,

ROOT BEER,

→ **small beer** AT SMALL¹ (16)

COLLOCATIONSense 1

types of beer

cold/ice-cold beer *He opened the fridge and got out a can of ice-cold beer.*

draught beer (**BrE**), draft beer (**AmE**) (= taken from a large container, not served in a bottle) *He only ever drinks draught beer.*

bottled beer (= served in a bottle) *We sell a wide selection of draught and bottled beers.*

strong beer (= with a lot of alcohol) *He had drunk two pints of strong beer before attempting to drive.*

light beer (**especially AmE**) (= lower in alcohol or calories than normal beer) *He claims light beer has no flavor.*

low-alcohol beer (= lower in alcohol than normal beer) *Have you tried low-alcohol beer?*

alcohol-free beer (= with no alcohol in it) *I'll bring some alcohol-free beer.*

stale beer (= old beer which has an unpleasant smell) *The hotel smelt of cigarette smoke and stale beer.*

beer + NOUN

a beer bottle/can (= a bottle/can for beer) *Empty beer cans littered the ground.*

a beer barrel/keg (= a large container for beer) *They rolled empty beer barrels along the street.*

a beer mat (= a mat for putting a glass of beer on) *There were beer mats and an ashtray on the table.*

a beer glass *He raised his beer glass and said 'Cheers!'*

a beer mug (= large glass with a handle) *The barmaid brought over four foaming beer mugs.*

a beer drinker *I'm not really a beer drinker.*

a beer festival (= special event where people can taste different types of beer)

phrases

a pint of beer *Two pints of beer, please.*

a bottle/can of beer (= containing beer) *The fridge was full of cans of beer.*

a barrel of beer (= a large container containing beer) *He bought a barrel of beer for the party.*

THESAURUS

beer a general word for an alcoholic drink made from MALT and HOPS: *a bottle of beer* | *Let's go and have a beer in the pub.*

lager a light-coloured beer, which often has a lot of bubbles in it: *A pint of lager, please.*

ale a type of beer which is usually sold in a bottle or a can:

Beers and fine ales were brewed here for over a hundred years. | Newcastle Brown Ale

draught beer (BrE), draft beer (AmE) beer that is served from a large container rather than a bottle, especially good quality beer: *The pub serves a range of draught beers.*

real ale (BrE) beer that has been made in the, traditional way, not in a large factory: *The pub has real ale and live music most nights.*

bitter (BrE) a type of dark strong beer that is popular in Britain: *I'll have a pint of bitter.*

shandy a drink made of beer mixed with lemonade: *I'd better have a shandy - I'm driving.*

cider an alcoholic drink made from apples: *His clothes were old and dirty, and he stank of cider.*

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *beor*