

# bar<sup>1</sup>

S1 W1

/bɑː \$ bɑːr/

noun [countable]

## 1 | place to drink in a)

a place where alcoholic drinks are served

→ **pub:**

*The hotel has a **licensed bar**.*

*a **cocktail bar***

## b) (BrE)

one of the rooms inside a pub:

*The **public bar** was crowded.*

## 2 | place to buy drink a COUNTER where alcoholic drinks are served:

*They stood at the bar.*

## 3 a wine/coffee/snack etc bar

a place where a particular kind of food or drink is served

## 4 a breakfast bar (BrE)

a place in your kitchen at home where you eat breakfast or a quick meal

## 5 | block shape a small block of solid material that is longer than it is wide:

*a **chocolate bar***

*a **candy bar***

**bar of**

*a **bar of soap***

## 6 | piece of metal/wood SHUT/CLOSEPREVENT a length of metal or wood put

across a door, window etc to keep it shut or to prevent people going in or out:

*houses with bars across the windows*

**7 behind bars** (informal)

in prison:

*Her killer was finally **put behind bars**.*

**8 |music** a group of notes and RESTS, separated from other groups by vertical lines, into which a line of written music is divided:

*a few bars of the song*

**9 bar to (doing) something** (written) PREVENT

something that prevents you from achieving something that you want:

*I could see no bar to our happiness.*

**10 the bar**

**a) (BrE)**

the group of people who are BARRISTERS

**b) (AmE)**

an organization consisting of lawyers

**11 be called to the bar**

**a) (BrE)**

to become a BARRISTER

**b) (AmE)**

to become a lawyer

**12 |on computer screen** a long narrow shape along the sides or at the top of a computer screen, usually containing signs that you can CLICK on:

*the main menu bar at the top of the screen*

*the toolbar*

→ SCROLL BAR

**13 |in sports** the long piece of wood or metal across the top of the goal in sports such as football:

*The ball hit the bar.*

**14 |pile of sand/stones** a long pile of sand or stones under the water at the entrance to a HARBOUR

**15 | colour/light** LIGHT a narrow band of colour or light

**16 | uniforms** a narrow band of metal or cloth worn on a military uniform to show rank

**17 | heater (BrE)** the part of an electric heater that provides heat and has a red light

## COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 3

### types of bar

a wine bar (= a bar selling mostly wine, in contrast to a pub) *He asked her to meet him in a trendy wine bar.*

a coffee bar *We met up in the student coffee bar.*

a sandwich/snack bar (= an informal restaurant or shop selling sandwiches/snacks) *I usually get some lunch from the sandwich bar.*

a burger bar (= an informal restaurant selling burgers and fast food) *The kids all hang out at the local burger bar.*

a juice bar (= a place selling fruit juices, usually freshly made) *The leisure centre also has a restaurant and a juice bar.*

a sushi bar (= a bar or informal restaurant selling sushi) *Have you tried that new sushi bar in town?*

a tapas bar (= a bar or informal restaurant serving small dishes of Spanish food) *Madrid is full of great tapas bars.*

a salad bar (= a part of a restaurant where you can serve yourself to a range of salads) *When you've chosen your pizza, please help yourself from the salad bar.*

## THESAURUS

**bar** a place where people go to buy and drink alcoholic drinks: *A man went into a bar and ordered a drink. | Let's meet up in the hotel bar. | The city centre is full of **wine bars** and restaurants. | The club has a restaurant and a **cocktail bar**.*

**pub** a building in Britain where alcohol can be bought and drunk, and where meals are often served: *Do you fancy going to the pub?* | *a country pub*

**public house** (BrE) (formal) a pub: *The fight took place outside a public house in the city centre.*

**somebody's local** (informal) a pub near where you live, especially one you often go to: *The Red Lion's my local.*

**inn** a small hotel or pub, especially an old one in the countryside – often used in the name of the hotel or pub: *The Bull Inn dates back to the 15th century.* | *The hotel was once a 17th century coaching inn* (= used by people travelling by coach and horses).

**gastropub** a pub that is known to serve very good food: *a gastropub with a riverside restaurant* | *the Windmill Gastropub*

**tavern** (BrE) a pub in the past where you could also stay the night – used nowadays in the names of some pubs: *the Turf Tavern* | *Marlowe was killed in a fight in a tavern.*

**watering hole** (informal) a bar, pub etc where people drink alcohol – often used humorously. A **watering hole** is also the name for a place where wild animals go to drink: *The bar became a popular watering hole for journalists.* | *What's your favorite watering hole?*

**dive** (informal) a bar, club etc that is cheap and dirty: *The place is a bit of dive.*

**honky-tonk** (AmE) (informal) a cheap bar where country music is played: *They played in every honky-tonk in Tennessee.*

**saloon** a bar in the western United States. Also used in Britain about the part of a pub which has comfortable chairs where you can sit and relax: *I felt like a cowboy walking into a saloon in the Wild West.* | *Do you want to stay in the saloon, or would rather go into the other bar?*

**people who work in a bar**

**barman** (*especially BrE*) a man who serves drinks in a bar: *A big Irish barman pulled me a pint of beer.*

**barmaid** (*BrE*) a woman who serves drinks in a bar: *I was working in the evenings as a barmaid.*

**bartender** (*especially AmE*) someone who makes, pours, and serves drinks in a bar or restaurant: *The bartender gave him his change.*

**bar staff** the people serving drinks or food in a bar or pub: *The local pub is advertising for bar staff.*

**landlord** (*BrE*) a man who owns or manages a pub: *He became violent and the landlord asked him to leave.*

#### Word origin

**Date:** 1100–1200

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *barre*

## bar<sup>2</sup>

verb

[transitive]

(**barred**, **barring**)

**1** ENTER to officially prevent someone from entering a place or from doing something:

**bar somebody from (doing) something**

*They seized his passport and barred him from leaving the country.*

**2** PREVENT to prevent people from going somewhere by placing something in their way:

*She ran back, but Francis **barred** her way.*

*A locked gate barred my entrance to the wood.*

**3 (also bar up)** SHUT/CLOSE to shut a door or window using a bar or piece of wood so that people cannot get in or out

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**bar**<sup>3</sup>

preposition

**1** EXCEPT except:

*We had recorded the whole album, bar one track.*

**2 bar none** BEST

used to emphasize that someone is the best of a particular group:

*He's the most talented actor in the country, bar none.*

→ BARRING

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*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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