

bor·row

S2 W3

/'bɒrəʊ \$ 'baɪrou, 'bɔɪ-

verb [intransitive and transitive]

- 1** BORROW to use something that belongs to someone else and that you must give back to them later → **lend, loan:**

Can I borrow your pen for a minute?

borrow something from somebody

You are allowed to borrow six books from the library at a time.

*They **borrowed heavily** (= borrowed a lot of money) from the bank to start their new business.*

⚠ Do not confuse **borrow** and **lend** (=give someone permission to use something of yours): *I borrowed his bike.* | *Can you lend me your pen?*

- 2** COPY to take or copy someone's ideas, words etc and use them in your own work, language etc:

borrow something from somebody/something

I borrowed my ideas from Eliot's famous poem 'The Waste Land'.

*To **borrow a phrase** (= use what someone else has said) , if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.*

borrow from

English has borrowed words from many languages.

- 3 borrow trouble** WORRIED (*AmE*) (informal)

to worry about something when it is not necessary

→ **be living on borrowed time** AT LIVE¹ (17),

→ **beg, borrow, or steal** AT BEG (8)

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *borgian*

