

bend¹

S3 W3

/bend/

verb

(*past tense and past participle bent* /bent/)

- 1** MOVE YOUR BODY [intransitive and transitive] **BEND** to move part of your body so that it is not straight or so that you are not upright:

Lee bent and kissed her.

She bent her head.

Bend your knees, but keep your back straight.

bend over

Emma bent over to pick up the coins.

bend down

I bent down to lift the box off the floor.

bend towards/across etc

He bent towards me and whispered in my ear.

- 2** [transitive] **CURVE** to push or press something so that it is no longer flat or straight:

You need a special tool to bend the steel.

- 3** [intransitive] to become curved and no longer flat or straight:

Several branches started bending towards the ground.

- 4** [intransitive] **BEND** when a road bends, it changes direction to form a curve:

The road bends sharply to the left.

5 bend the truth

to say something that is not completely true

- 6 bend over backwards (to do something)** TRY TO DO OR GET SOMETHING

to try very hard to be helpful:

We bent over backwards to finish it on time.

7 bend somebody's ear (spoken) TALK TO SOMEBODY

to talk to someone, especially for a long time, about something that is worrying you

8 on bended knee

a) ASK FOR SOMETHING/ASK SOMEBODY TO DO SOMETHING

trying very hard to persuade someone to do something:

He begged on bended knee for another chance.

b) BEND

in a kneeling position:

He went down on bended knee and asked her to marry him.

9 bend your mind/efforts to something (formal) ATTENTION

to give all your energy or attention to one activity, plan etc

10 bend to somebody's will (formal)

to do what someone else wants, especially when you do not want to

→ **bend the rules** AT RULE¹ (1)

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *bendan*

bend²

noun

[countable]

1 BEND a curved part of something, especially a road or river:

The car came round the bend at a terrifying speed.

bend in

a sharp bend in the road

2 BEND an action in which you bend a part of your body:

We started the session with a few knee bends to warm up.

3 drive somebody round the bend (BrE) (spoken) CRAZY

to annoy someone:

His attitude drives me round the bend.

4 be/go round the bend (BrE) (spoken) CRAZY

to be or become crazy:

I sometimes feel I'm going round the bend looking after young children all day.

5 the bends

a painful and serious condition that DIVERS get if they come up from deep water too quickly

COLLOCATIONSense 1
adjectives

a sharp/tight bend (= a curve that changes direction suddenly) *That road sign means you are approaching a sharp bend.*

a hairpin bend (= a very sharp bend in which a road changes direction, usually on a mountain) *The road wound up the mountain in a series of hairpin bends.*

a slight/gentle/wide bend (= that changes direction slightly or gradually) *Ahead of us there was a wide bend in the river.*

a blind bend (= that you cannot see around when you are driving) *Never overtake another car on a blind bend.*

a left-hand/right-hand bend (= going towards the left or the right) *Take the turning just after the left-hand bend in the road.*

verbs

come around/round the bend *Suddenly a motorbike came around the bend at top speed.*

round the bend *He rounded the bend much too fast.*

