

bridge¹

S2 W2

/brɪdʒ/

noun

1 | over a river/road etc OVER A RIVER/ROAD ETC[countable] a structure built over a river, road etc that allows people or vehicles to cross from one side to the other

→ SUSPENSION BRIDGE,
SWING BRIDGE

2 | connection CONNECTIONCONNECTED WITH[countable] something that provides a connection between two things

SYN link:

bridge between/to

The training programme is seen as a bridge between school and work.

*a scheme to **build bridges** (= make a better relationship) **between the police and the community***

3 | ship SHIP[countable usually singular] the raised part of a ship from which the officers control it

4 | card game CARD GAME[uncountable] a card game for four players, who play in pairs

5 the bridge of your nose
the upper part of your nose between your eyes

6 | pair of glasses PAIR OF GLASSES[countable usually singular] the part of a pair of glasses that rests on your nose

7 | musical instrument MUSICAL INSTRUMENT[countable usually singular] a small piece of wood under the strings of a VIOLIN or GUITAR, used to keep them in position

8 | for teeth FOR TEETH[countable] a small piece of metal that keeps false teeth in place by attaching them to your real teeth

→ **burn your bridges** AT BURN¹ (18),

→ cross that bridge when you come to it AT CROSS¹ (10),

→ be (all) water under the bridge AT WATER¹ (6)

COLLOCATIONSense 1

verbs

build a bridge (*also erect a bridge (formal)*) *Finally a new bridge was erected over the road.*

cross a bridge *An estimated 150,000 cars cross the bridge each day.*

a bridge crosses something *A pretty stone bridge crosses the little river.*

a bridge spans something (= crosses a wide area) *By 1875 a railroad bridge spanned the Missouri.*

a bridge links something to/with something *There's a road bridge linking the site with Stockton town centre.*

types of bridge

a stone/wooden/iron bridge *The iron bridge was built in 1811.*

a railway bridge (*BrE*), a railroad bridge (*AmE*) (= for trains) *Go under the railway bridge and turn right.*

a road bridge (= for cars) *The government plans to construct a new road bridge to the island.*

a suspension bridge (= one that hangs from strong steel ropes) *A famous suspension bridge spans the estuary.*

a swing bridge (*BrE*) (= one that can be pulled up for ships to go under)

a toll bridge (= one that you pay to go across)

a humpback bridge (*BrE*) (= a short bridge with a steep slope at each side)

Word origin

Sense 1-3, 5-8:

Language: Old English

Origin: *brycg*

Sense 4:

Date: 1800–1900

bridge²

verb

[transitive]

1 LESS to reduce or get rid of the difference between two things:

The differences between our two cultures can be bridged if we continue to communicate.

*Alvin managed to **bridge the gap between** ballet and modern dance.*

2 (written) to build or form a bridge over something:

a fallen tree bridging the stream

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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