

buck¹ S1

/bʌk/

noun [countable]

1 MONEY **dollar** (informal) a US, Canadian, or Australian dollar:

He owes me ten bucks.

*The movie is about a group of men trying to **make a buck** (= earn some money) as male strippers.*

big/mega bucks (= a lot of money)

Using celebrities in advertising is guaranteed to pull in big bucks.

make a fast/quick buck (= make some money quickly, often dishonestly)

2 the buck stops here (also **the buck stops with somebody**) RESPONSIBLE

used to say that a particular person is responsible for something:

The buck stops firmly with the boss.

3 pass the buck

to make someone else responsible for something that you should deal with

4 feel/look like a million bucks (especially AmE) (informal)

BEAUTIFUL/GOOD-LOOKING

to feel or look very healthy, happy, and beautiful

5 MALE ANIMAL **animal** (plural **buck or bucks**) a male rabbit, DEER, and some other male animals → **doe**

6 FASHIONABLE **man** (old-fashioned) a young man

→ (get) a bigger/better etc bang for your buck AT BANG¹ (5)

Word origin

Sense 1,4:

Date: 1800–1900

Origin: Perhaps from *buckskin*; because it was used as a unit of exchange in trade with Native Americans.

Sense 2:

Date: 1900–2000

Origin: *buck* 'object used in the card game of poker to mark the next person to play' (19–20 centuries), from *buckhorn knife* 'knife with a handle made from a buck's horn' (19–20 centuries).

Sense 3, 5:

Language: Old English**Origin:** *bucca* 'male deer or goat'

buck²

verb

1 HORSE **horse** [intransitive] JUMP if a horse bucks, it kicks its back feet into the air, or jumps with all four feet off the ground

2 **move suddenly** [intransitive] STOP MOVING to suddenly move up and down, or backwards and forwards, in an uncontrolled way:

The plane bucked sharply.

3 AGAINST/OPOSE **oppose** [transitive] to oppose something in a direct way:

*He was a rebel who **bucked the system** (= opposed rules or authority) .*

*Unemployment in the area has **bucked the trend** by falling over the last month.*

buck against

Initially, he had bucked against her restraints.

4 **make somebody happier** [transitive] to make someone feel more happy, confident, or healthy:

He was bucked by the success he'd had.

She gave me a tonic which bucked me a little.

buck for something

phrasal verb

to try very hard to get something, especially a good position at work:

He's bucking for promotion.

buck up

phrasal verb

1 HAPPY to become happier, or to make someone happier:

Come on, buck up, things aren't that bad!

buck somebody ↔ up

You need something to buck you up.

2 buck up! HURRY (BrE) (old-fashioned)

used to tell someone to hurry up:

Buck up, John! We'll be late.

3 (informal) to improve, or to make something improve:

It'll be a long time before the situation starts to buck up.

buck something ↔ up

a company that is looking to buck up its networking capabilities

4 buck your ideas up IMPROVE (BrE) (informal)

used to tell someone to improve their behaviour or attitude

buck³

adverb

(AmE)

buck naked

not wearing any clothes

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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