

**boil**<sup>1</sup>

S3

/boil/

verb

**1** [intransitive and transitive] when a liquid boils, or when you boil it, it becomes hot enough to turn into gas:

**boil at**

*The solution boiled at 57.4°C.*

*Put the spaghetti into plenty of boiling salted water.*

*We were advised to boil the water before drinking it.*

**2** [intransitive and transitive] to cook something in boiling water:

*a boiled egg*

*Boil the rice for 15 minutes.*

*She fried the chicken and **put the vegetables on to boil**.*

**3** [intransitive and transitive] if something containing liquid boils, the liquid inside it is boiling:

*The kettle's boiling – shall I turn it off?*

*The saucepan **boiled dry** on the stove.*

**4** [transitive] to wash something, using boiling water:

*I always boil the cotton sheets.*

**5** [intransitive] if you are boiling with anger, you are extremely angry:

**boil with**

*Lewis was boiling with rage and misery.*

→ BOILING POINT <sup>(2)</sup> ,

→ **make somebody's blood boil** AT BLOOD<sup>1</sup> <sup>(4)</sup>

**boil away**

phrasal verb

if a liquid boils away, it disappears because it has been heated too much:

*The soup's almost boiled away.*

**boil down**

## phrasal verb

### 1 **boil down to something** (informal)

if a long statement, argument etc boils down to a single statement, that statement is the main point or cause:

*It boils down to a question of priorities.*

### 2 **boil something** ↔ **down** REDUCE

to make a list or piece of writing shorter by not including anything that is not necessary:

*You can boil this down so that there are just two main categories.*

### 3 if a food or liquid boils down, or if you boil it down, it becomes less after it is cooked:

*Spinach tends to boil down a lot.*

**boil something** ↔ **down**

*glue made from boiling down old sheepskins*

## boil over

### phrasal verb

#### 1 if a liquid boils over when it is heated, it rises and flows over the side of the container:

*The milk was boiling over on the stove behind her.*

#### 2 ANGRY if a situation or an emotion boils over, the people involved stop being calm:

*All the bitterness of the last two years seemed to boil over.*

**boil over into**

*Anger eventually boils over into words that are later regretted.*

## boil up

### phrasal verb

#### 1 SERIOUS SITUATION if a situation or emotion boils up, bad feelings grow until they reach a dangerous level:

*She could sense that trouble was boiling up at work.*

*He could feel the anger boiling up inside him.*

### 2 **boil something** ↔ **up**

to heat food or a liquid until it begins to boil:

*Boil the fruit up with sugar.*

### Word origin

**Date:** 1200–1300

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *boillir*, from Latin *bullire*, from *bullā* 'bubble'

# boil<sup>2</sup>

noun

**1** the boil (*BrE*),  
a boil (*AmE*)

the act or state of boiling:

*Add the seasoning and **bring** the sauce **to the boil**.*

*She waited for the water to **come to the boil** (= begin to boil) .*

**2** [countable] a painful infected swelling under someone's skin:

*The boy's body is covered in boils.*

**3** go off the boil (*BrE*)<sup>WORSE</sup>

to become less good at something that you are usually very good at:

*He's gone off the boil after a tournament win in Dubai.*

### Word origin

Sense 1,3:

**Date:** 1400–1500

**Origin:** → *BOIL*<sup>1</sup>

Sense 2:

**Language:** Old English

**Origin:** *byl*