

bat¹ s3

/bæt/

noun [countable]

1 a small animal like a mouse with wings that flies around at night

→ FRUIT BAT

2

a)

a long wooden stick with a special shape that is used in some sports and games:

a baseball bat

a cricket bat

b) (BrE)

a round flat piece of wood with a handle, used to hit a ball in

TABLE TENNIS

SYN **paddle** (AmE)

3 be at bat

to be the person who is trying to hit the ball in a game of BASEBALL

4 do something off your own bat INDEPENDENT PERSON (BrE) (informal)

to do something without being told to do it:

She went to see a solicitor off her own bat.

5 do something right off the bat IMMEDIATELY (AmE) (informal)

to do something immediately:

He said yes right off the bat.

6 like a bat out of hell (informal) FAST/QUICK

very fast:

I drove like a bat out of hell to the hospital.

7 old bat (spoken) WOMAN

an unpleasant old woman

→ **as blind as a bat** AT BLIND¹ (1c)

Word origin

Sense 1,5-7:

Date: 1500–1600

Origin: *back* 'bat' (14–16 centuries), probably from a Scandinavian language.

Sense 2-4:

Language: Old English

Origin: *batt*

bat²

verb

(**batted**, **batting**)

1 [intransitive and transitive] to hit the ball with a bat in CRICKET or BASEBALL

2 not bat an eye/eyelid (informal) SHOCK

to not seem to be shocked, surprised, or embarrassed:

They started talking about sex, but she didn't bat an eyelid.

3 bat your eyes/eyelashes

if a woman bats her eyes, she opens and closes them several times quickly, in order to look attractive to men

4 go to bat for somebody SUPPORT A PERSON, GROUP, OR PLAN (AmE) (informal)

to help and support someone

5 be batting a thousand SUCCESSFUL (AmE) (informal)

to be very successful:

She's been batting a thousand since she got that job.

bat something ↔ around

phrasal verb

(informal)

DISCUSS to discuss various ideas or suggestions

Word origin

朗文当代

Sense 1, 4-5:

Date: 1400–1500

Origin: → BAT '2

Sense 2-3:

Date: 1800–1900

Origin: Probably from *bate* 'to beat the wings' (13–20 centuries), from Old French *batre* 'to hit'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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