

belt¹

S2 W3

/belt/

noun [countable]

- 1** CLOTHES a band of leather, cloth etc that you wear around your waist to hold up your clothes or for decoration:

He unbuckled his leather belt.

- 2** AREA a large area of land that has particular features or where particular people live:

America's farming belt

the green (= countryside) *belt* (BrE)

→ GREEN BELT

- 3** MACHINE PART a circular band of something such as rubber that connects or moves parts of a machine

→ CONVEYOR BELT,
FAN BELT

- 4 below the belt** (informal) UNFAIR

unfair or cruel:

That was a bit below the belt, Paul.

*The comments **hit below the belt** (= they were unfair or cruel) .*

- 5 have something under your belt** DO

to have achieved something useful or important:

a secretary with several years' experience under her belt

- 6 belt and braces** (BrE) (informal)

a belt and braces way of doing something is one in which you do more than necessary in order to make sure that it succeeds

→ BLACK BELT,
GARTER BELT,

SAFETY BELT,

SEAT BELT,

SUSPENDER BELT,

→ **tighten your belt** AT TIGHTEN ⁽⁶⁾

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 2 ADJECTIVES/NOUN + belt

a wide belt *Along the coast is a wide belt of sand dunes.*

a narrow belt *The tree grows in a narrow belt around the western Mediterranean.*

the green belt (**BrE**) (= land around a city where building is not allowed) *the government's commitment to protecting the green belt*

a mountain belt (= a long and wide area of mountains) *mountain belts such as the Himalayas*

a coastal belt (= land along the coast) *The wide coastal belt is a flat plain, partially wooded.*

an industrial belt (= where there are a lot of factories etc) *the northern industrial belt of the United States*

the corn/cotton/wheat belt (= where corn/cotton etc is grown) *Western Australia's wheat belt*

the commuter belt (**BrE**) (= an area around a large city from where people travel to work in the city every day) *House prices are high in the London commuter belt.*

the stockbroker belt (**BrE**) (= an area around a city where rich people who work in the city live) *wealthy families living in the stockbroker belt*

Word origin

Language: Old English

verb

- 1 **hit** [transitive] HIT (informal) to hit someone or something hard:

Dan belted the ball towards the goal.

- 2 **go quickly** [intransitive always + adverb/preposition] (BrE) (spoken)

FAST/QUICK to go somewhere very fast

SYN charge:

belt down/along etc

We were belting down the motorway at 95 miles per hour.

- 3 **fasten** [transitive] to fasten something with a belt:

Maria belted her raincoat firmly.

a dress belted loosely at the waist

belt something ↔ out

phrasal verb

to sing a song or play an instrument loudly:

She was belting out old Broadway favourites.

belt up

phrasal verb

(BrE)

- 1 QUIET (spoken) used to tell someone rudely to be quiet

- 2 (informal) to fasten your SEAT BELT in a vehicle

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