

# bet<sup>2</sup> S3

noun [countable]

- 1 an agreement to risk money on the result of a race, game etc or on something happening, or the money that you risk:

*a £50 bet*

**bet on**

*A few of us **had** a **bet** on who'd get married first.*

**place/put/lay a bet**

*We placed bets on three horses.*

*Bookmakers are already **taking bets** on the outcome.*

**win/lose a bet**

*If he scores now, I'll win my bet.*

- 2 **your best bet** (spoken) ADVISE

used when advising someone what to do:

*Your best bet is to put an advert in the local newspaper.*

*The train might be a better bet.*

- 3 **a good/safe bet** SUCCEED IN DOING SOMETHING

an action or situation that is likely to be successful or does not involve much risk:

*If you're looking for long-term growth, the government's own saving certificates are a pretty good bet.*

→ **hedge your bets** AT HEDGE<sup>2</sup> (2)

- 4 **it's a safe/sure/fair bet (that)** (spoken) CERTAINLY/DEFINITELY

used to say that something seems almost certain:

*I think it's a pretty safe bet that he'll get the job.*

- 5 **my bet** (spoken) EXPECT

used when saying what you expect to happen in the future:

*My bet is he'll be back this time next week.*

## 6 do something for a bet

to do something stupid, dangerous etc to win money from someone or to prove that you can do it:

*He climbed the tree for a bet.*

## COLLOCATIONSense 1 verbs

have a bet *Are you going to have a bet on the race?*

place/put/lay a bet on something *She placed a bet on a horse called Beethoven.*

take a bet (= accept someone's money as part of a bet) *They're taking bets on the result of the election now.*

win a bet *France won the game and I won my bet.*

lose a bet *If I have a bet, I always lose it.*

make a bet (= risk money on the way a situation will develop in future) *If you want to make money on the stockmarket, you have to start making bets.*

### Word origin

**Date:** 1500–1600

**Origin:** Perhaps from *abet* 'support, help' (14–16 centuries), from *abet* 'to help'